



Cowbridge Station to close as police opt for officers on the beat

COWBRIDGE Police Station will no longer be open to the public after South Wales Police launched a new 'accessibility strategy' which is expected to lead to the closure of a number of stations.

The news was confirmed at Tuesday's meeting of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council by Inspector Mark Taylor.

He told councillors that the Neighbourhood Policing Team officers would be based at Llantwit Major, but he insisted that there would be no reduced presence in the town.

Insp Taylor said: "Cowbridge Police Station will still be



Cowbridge Police Station will no longer have a front office open during the day.

owned by South Wales Police, but a different department will be based there.

"Policing is not about buildings but about officers in the town."

He added that the new accessibility strategy

would see more PCSOs on the streets as well, and said he would be happy to meet a delegation of town councillors to talk through the changes in detail.

He said: "Footfall in the Cowbridge station is

low, perhaps five or six people a day – and half of them are just asking for directions!"

He added that because vehicle documents could be checked online now, there was no need for people to go to

a police station and produce them.

He told councillors that the local PCSO could, if there was a demand, be at the station at certain agreed times during the day.

He told the council that the police would still be able to respond to situations in the town, and quoted the recent example of an 85-year-old lady who had her handbag stolen in Millfield Drive.

He said: "We called in officers from Barry and Penarth on that day."

"I should add that a man has been arrested for that offence and has appeared in Cardiff Crown Court, where he received a two-year sentence."

PHILIP IRWIN

Top marks for the Iolo school kitchen

CHILDREN at Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg were delighted to hear just before half term that their school kitchen was awarded the highest possible grade following a recent spot check inspection.

The Food Standards Agency awarded five stars for the hygiene and quality of the standard by which food is prepared on site. This is the highest possible, and is testament to the hard work undertaken by Mrs Painter and Mrs Thorne.

Headteacher Dylan Evans commented: "This is a highly recognised award and is fully deserved. Both Mrs Painter and Mrs Thorne are very hard-working and are dedicated in providing high standards and nutritious food for the children."

"The numbers have increased steadily over recent years and they have maintained the high quality of food hygiene that is fully expected. Staff members are even treated each year to Christmas dinner and look forward to Welsh cawl on March 1!"



ABOVE: Mrs Thorne and Mrs Painter with the children.

Pupils are sent home

PUPILS have been sent home from a local secondary school after copper piping was stolen from the central heating system.

Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari was forced to close after the overnight theft of the piping led to extensive flood damage. The school hopes to reopen today (Thursday).

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Monks Wood plans a comeback after fly grazing damage

VILLAGERS in Wick are picking themselves up after a local community woodland area was damaged by 'fly grazing' – and they have already put together plans to tackle the aftermath.

Monks Wood, a community woodland area that is managed by the Woodland Trust in conjunction with the villagers, was badly damaged when around 60 horses were dumped there over Christmas and the New Year.

Wick resident George Jeffrey told The GEM: "At a recent meeting, a plan was formulated to repair the damage to Monks Wood."

"The repair work will begin with repairs to the main entrance, using chipmunks and metal gates. This work will begin shortly and will be followed by light rolling and rotivating of the

rides. Grass seed and wild flower seeds will also be sown."

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 12)

**REPORT
by PHILIP
IRWIN**

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'Labour's u-turn on Cemetery Approach'

IT appears that Labour are really getting themselves in the thick of it over Cemetery Approach, Barry.

The more we hear, the worse it gets for them. What everyone must remember is that they were in charge of the council when it was proposed to sell off this land.

I am really glad that people like my brother, Richard Bertin had the sense at the time to listen and say no to the proposal.

So why have Labour done a u-turn on it? It is simple. They now realise how wrong they were at the time and in order to win Dyfan ward, which they are desperate to win, they are hoping that

this will turn it for them.

What voters need to be reminded of is that it was this very Labour group who tried to dispose of this land. Now there is an election they have changed their minds.

I am not surprised there has been a reaction and there have been letters in the press because the truth needs to be heard.

So everyone now knows that Labour have done a u-turn!

I'm glad to hear that all the other groups on the council all want to keep it for public use. I certainly support retaining it for public use such as a park or garden.

Robert Bertin, Independent candidate, Barry.

Labour's pledge on Cemetery Approach

IT appears that Labour's pledge on Cemetery Approach, Barry, has caused some reaction and I would like to make this last comment.

I agree that the planning process for the site was complex. It was established when the planning application was being dealt with. The land in question had been designated for 'open space' more than half a century ago.

Despite this, it had been used for other purposes by previous councils for many years and it was this that caused much of the issue at the time.

However, at the end of the day, planning permission for the Newydd housing was refused.

So why did Labour make the pledge now? It was simply because in

July 2008 this Conservative council changed the land use away from open space and declared it 'surplus to requirements', thereby opening the door for another application to build on it.

Since then the council has been silent on the issue. Therefore, Labour decided to make clear their intended use, if they were elected to run the council.

This has clearly sparked reaction, and out of the blue the

Conservative cabinet placed that very topic on a cabinet report for Wednesday February 15, seeking a consultation exercise on what to do with it. Now there's a surprise!

However, everyone knows what we would do.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Labour Group, (Vale Council).

Lively tales to tell!

DR Jonathan Hicks and his friends are doing a fine job publicising this summer's celebration of 70 years since the arrival of US troops in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Porthkerry Park was very important to their deployment and also of great interest to the local female population who were regular visitors.

Yes, those 80-90 year-old ladies around Barry and the Vale still surviving may have some lively tales to tell!

Christopher Short, Barry.

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Readers' Letters

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'The country code must be followed'

'RAMBLERS DO ACT RESPONSIBLY'

IREFER to the letter in The GEM on February 9 regarding walkers ignoring a stile and instead using a gate into a field, which contained sheep, that they failed to close.

I totally concur with the writer that this selfish and thoughtless act could have had dire consequences and caused serious problems for both the animals and their owners.

However, I would like to speak up on behalf of members of Ramblers (which was the Ramblers' Association) and reassure the writer that its members are fully aware of the Country Code which is a set of rules for users of the countryside, in fact a sort of Highway Code for walkers.

On Ramblers' walks it is the responsibility of the leader to ensure that members of the group abide by the Country Code, and with larger groups, a back-marker is appointed to make sure that all gates are left as they were found – open if they were open and closed if they were not.

It is true that if a stile is provided it should be used. But sometimes, especially with larger groups, if it is safe to do so, and if a gate can be opened, it is an easier and faster method of gaining access and does save time. It is important to remember to close the gate, an act which is second nature to most walkers.

I can see why the writer was incensed enough to contact the local press, but it would have been nice to know where this incident took place.

The GEM has a large readership and if the location had been mentioned it may have jogged the memory of the culprit(s) or even embarrassed them into realising why it is important to

secure gates on farming land, especially where animals are kept.

Fortunately, because of the diligence of the owners, on this occasion, a crisis was averted and I sincerely hope that the writer does not class all walkers as reckless, uncaring and inconsiderate, because we are not.

**Joy Strangward
(Publicity officer for Penarth and District Ramblers)**

Democracy Started in Greece (BC) Ended in Barry (AD)

MR Wyn Phillips of Barry has penned this poem on the decision to give Sainsburys the go-ahead to build a store in Park Crescent, Barry:

*Wouldn't it be wonderful?
If democracy prevails.
With voters' wishes heeded
And not just heads or tails.*

*Tossed in the air, without a care
our local points of view,
They cannot see that you and me
Don't want a traffic zoo.*

*A Romilly pupil, three schools me,
Engraved upon my heart.
The only traffic problem then,
A wayward horse and cart.*

*But now we're talking lorries, vans,
Children going to school,
Congestion, dangers every day
The Welsh Government's a tool.*

*Four thousand 'nos' to Sainsbury's store
I'm pleased to say I'm one,
But jumped up 'no marks' tell us all
To go and take a run.*

*Why do we have a council,
That we all voted for?
When faceless men that we don't know,
Can come and close the door.*

*On logic, sense and safety
For the area we all know
The useless suits in power
It's a place they'll never go.*

*I'd like to know the inspector's name,
who sanctioned this ado,
'cos if he's viewed the site at all,
his name must be 'Blind Pugh'*

*Sainsbury's spokesman Tommy T
Says jobs for one and all,
But families and shops we love
Go crashing to the wall.*

*There's not a shop in old PC
That will not be affected,
It seems to me the powers that be
should NOT have been elected!*

*So if this hazard should be built,
This grasping super store,
I hope you all will join with me
And not go through the door.*

Wyn Phillips

It's time to end the 'Big Six Energy Fix'

AS Wales is a country which generates and exports more energy than it uses, it is a national disgrace that so many people, especially older people, find themselves having to worry about whether or not to turn on the heating.

Heating and energy are basic needs and no-one should find themselves having to choose between heating and eating, as some people have done this winter. Not having properly heated homes affects people's health.

During the first half of 2011, the big six energy companies made a profit of £3.5bn from consumers in the UK, while at least a quarter of homes in Wales suffer from fuel poverty – where the amount spent on fuel is 10per cent of the household income.

With average bills having doubled in the past five years, the present system is not working for vulnerable people and squeezed household budgets.

There should be a windfall tax on the colossal profits made by the energy companies, ring-fenced to help those in greatest need such as the elderly, the disabled and needy families, so they can heat their homes and improve insulation.

We can't do without energy and heating and we need to put people before shareholders' profits. We need to end the 'Big Six Energy Fix'.

Dr Ian Johnson, Plaid Cymru, Barry

Barry faces grid-lock

IS the Vale cabinet and planning department blind to the fact that we have virtual grid-lock on the roads of Barry (not to mention Dinas Powys and Wenvoe).

This is before the completion of the 71 houses on Port Road, the proposed 2,000 properties on the Waterfront, and Persimmon Homes' attempt to force the 177 properties on White Farm public open space land.

The planning committee should stop all the construction in and around Barry until our roads and Victorian sewerage infrastructures are brought up to the standard of that required in the 21st century.

Just drive around the streets of Barry one evening and see the amount of cars and vans parked on our streets that drivers and pedestrians must contend with.

This is not rocket science, just common sense. **Bryn Evans, FocusBARRY supporter, Barry.**

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 1)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
23 Thur	07.17	9.9	19.33	9.6
24 Fri	07.52	9.9	20.04	9.7
25 Sat	08.22	9.7	20.36	9.5
26 Sun	08.53	9.4	21.07	9.2
27 Mon	09.23	9.1	21.34	8.8
28 Tues	09.55	8.6	22.05	8.4
29 Wed	10.27	8.1	22.44	7.9
01 Thur	11.11	7.6	23.42	7.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

'I'M STILL LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL'

Sally's catwalk moment for charity will be a celebration!

A L L A N D O W woman will be stepping out onto the catwalk at a gala show in Cardiff City Hall next month in support of Breast Cancer Cymru.

For Sally Harrop, who was diagnosed with breast cancer almost two years ago, the evening will be making a statement – that she and her friends on the catwalk can still look good and feel great after a life-changing medical condition.

It was a life-changing diagnosis for Sally,

by PHILIP IRWIN

because she was well aware of the dangers of breast cancer. Her grandmother and her mother were both diagnosed at an early age.

She told The GEM: "One night, I couldn't sleep and something told me to check my right breast. I found a lump almost immediately.

"I really feel I have a guardian angel looking after me. I sensed a voice telling me to check, and even guiding me to the exact place."

Because of the fami-

ly history, Sally decided to have a bilateral mastectomy. Unfortunately, the cancer had spread to her lymph nodes, so they were removed too.

Next was an 18-week course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, but Sally had her mother there as an inspiration.

Sally explained: "My mum was diagnosed at the age of 31, when I was just 10 months old. She has had to fight it twice, but recently celebrated her 80th birthday!"

Sally, who is a part-time teacher at St Fagans Church-in-Wales Primary, said: "Stepping out onto the catwalk in front of my fantastic family and friends, who have supported me every step of the way, will be a chance to say I'm still here, living life to the full and enjoying every minute."

Sally has been busy fundraising. Her aunt has knitted hats which she has been selling, and Sally is holding a 'pink disco' in Llandow Village hall this Saturday (February 25) at 7.30pm.

Entry is £5, which includes a glass of pink fizz!

Sally can be sponsored through the just giving page: www.justgiving.com/walesshow2012

BRIAN SWAIN



ABOVE: Sally Harrop is looking forward to the 'catwalk moment'.

Charter Trust has big plans for Cowbridge (but they're secret!)

COWBRIDGE Charter Trust is seeking to recruit more members to boost their future programme of enhancements for the town and its surrounding communities at its annual general meeting next Wednesday (February 29 in the Lesser Hall, 7.15pm for 7.30pm).

In the footsteps of their largest project to be completed this far – restoring the town's 800-year-old town walls – the Trust is aiming to complete its £24,000 grant-aided scheme to regenerate Old Hall Gardens.

Other schemes for Cowbridge under consideration by the Trust include outline plans for facelifting the frontage of Old Hall to revive elements of its original Georgian provenance, together with cosmetic improvements to local well-used footpaths.

Trust secretary, Dick Tonkin, said: "The Trust's aims and objectives include preservation and educational projects anywhere within nine kilometres of the town hall.

"If you think your village or community could benefit, why not come along and talk to us about it."

Plans for the Trust's biggest project to date, to be announced soon, will be made public after further consultations covering planning and financial issues.

Trust treasurer Percy Robson said: "We have made significant progress since our inauguration nine years ago. Our mission is to improve the life of the town for all its citizens and neighbouring villages and to ensure that we pay due regard to their historical values."

Next Wednesday's AGM promises to be of

interest to all who are interested in the town's enhancement

It will begin with a slide show of projects undertaken since 2004, an outline covering the important restoration of the town walls and a presentation by CADS of Dick Buswell's witty one-act play, *An Alternative History of Cowbridge*, which in 20 minutes embraces all the major landmarks of the town's development over the past 800 years.

Admission to the AGM is free. Fairtrade tea and coffee will be provided.

Cowbridge footpath improvements are finally complete

SUBSTANTIAL improvements to a Cowbridge footpath that runs between the viaduct on Aberthin Road and the town hall car park have now been completed.

The footpath provides a direct link from Cowbridge Comprehensive School and Millfield Drive to the town centre.

However, over time, the footpath had degraded to such a poor condition that local residents and pupils from the school avoided using the path. Their concerns were so strong that lengthy consultations were held at town council meetings and the matter was repeatedly covered on the Cowbridge Footpath Forum.

A Vale Council spokeswoman said: "The path has been completely resurfaced and new path edgings fitted. The drainage has been improved, because flooding often made the paths inaccessible during poor weather. Litter bins have also been provided.

"The works have been met with widespread support from the town council, local residents and students from the secondary school.

"The project was funded by the Rural



The newly renovated footpath.

Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013, which is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

The Vale Council secured this funding through the Creative Rural Communities Rural Footpaths Grant that seeks to improve the right of way network in the rural Vale. Match funding was provided by the Countryside Council for Wales."

The Vale cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, Coun Rhodri Traherne, commented: "This is another excellent scheme from the Vale Council's Creative Rural Communities team, which will make a significant contribution to the quality of life of people living and working in Cowbridge."

History society looks at poor laws

COWBRIDGE and District Local History Society's next lecture will be on Friday, March 2 at 7.30pm in the lesser hall of the town hall, Cowbridge.

Entitled 'The Problem of Poverty – The Poor Laws and the formation of the Bridgend and Cowbridge Union,' the lecture will be given by Don Gerrard. All are welcome!

Latest bridge club results

VALE of Glamorgan Bridge Club, club night on Monday, February 13 involved 23 pairs.

First, Debbie and Simon Richards, 64.93 per cent; second, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams, 62.05; third, Joan Jenkins and Liam Sheridan, 61.44; fourth, Marjorie Morris and Linda Pinnock, 61.39; fifth, Miriam and Simon Gottschalk, 61.31; sixth, Alan Lewis and Terry Evans, 60.77.

A WBU event will take place next Monday, February 27 at 7pm prompt.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club on February 14 involved 15 pairs:

First, Theresa Pollard and David Wright, 64.35 per cent; second, Pat and Brian Swain, 59.17; third, Hugh Williams and Gordon Berrey, 56.48; fourth =, Amy Owen and Glenda Roberts, 55.56; fourth =, Brenda Grove and Pam Higgs, 55.56; sixth, Pauline Lane and Marian Arnold, 54.63.

Please note the Friday afternoon event will be held on February 24 at 2pm. Please contact me on 01446 773596 for further details.

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Local primary school honours pupils of the month with ceremony



ABOVE: The winners of the Merit awards.

REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

RIGHT: Isabelle showing her awards blanket to Dr Tom Marples, Mrs Ceri Hoffrock, and the school assembly. The blanket has all the badges and awards that Isabelle has won sewn to it.

FOLLOWING the morning service and assembly at St David's Church-in-Wales Primary School at Colwinston, conducted by the Rev Canon Peter Leonard, the chairman of the school governors, pupils were awarded badges and trophies by another school governor, Dr Tom Marples.

The awards and presentations were made to the pupils in recognition of the way that they had demonstrated the school 'Value of the Month', which in January was 'Perseverance'.

Merit badges were awarded to one child from each class. Mrs Ceri Hoffrock, the headteacher, said: "The staff always find it extremely difficult to choose a pupil of the month as we are all so proud of all of our children."

Awards of Merit badges were made by Dr Tom Marples to Isabel - reception; Georgie - year-1; Molly - year-2; Laura - year-3; Holly - year-4; Josef - year-5; and Lloyd - year-6.

Three major awards were also presented to pupils by Dr Marples. These were the 'Dysgwr y Mis' (Welsh learner) which Sam in year-1 received, while the 'Citizen of the Month' went to Millie in year-2 for her caring attitude.

Finally, the 'Sports Person of the Month' was awarded to Samson in year-6, who also plays rugby at regional level.

In summing up, Rev Canon Peter Leonard said that it was a great joy to come into school and be part of such a positive team. The children always give their best and it is good to recognise their achievements.

BLANKET FULL OF AWARDS!



Art Society's expert visitor

COWBRIDGE Art Society will meet next on March 1 when south Wales valleys artist Gayle Rogers will give two demonstrations, one using watercolour pencils and the other using linocut with tissue paper.

Members will then be able to experiment themselves (bring your own watercolour pencils and paper).

Gayle is a highly versatile artist whose creativity ranges across a number of mediums and areas such as upholstery and furniture design, theatre set and costume design. This can be seen on her website, www.gaylerogersart.com.

We anticipate a very interesting evening. Non members are always welcome. For further details of the society see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

AL

TABLE TOP SALE

THERE will be a table top sale on Saturday, February 25, at St Athan Community Centre.

Sellers to arrive at 12pm, and the public 1pm to 4pm. Contact Carol (01446 730100) or Ann (01446 754179).

Read your GEM online - cowbridge-today.co.uk

Row over £10 led to car park attack

by AJ SICLUNA

A MEMBER of the committee of Llantwit Major Rugby Football Club attacked a man after a night out in Cardiff in a row over £10 towards the cost of transport.

Mark Holley suffered cuts to his face and a suspected fracture of a cheekbone.

His attacker, businessman Mark Griffin, was "mortified and disgusted because of a moment of madness", Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Griffin, 48, of Wick Road, Llantwit Major, admitted a charge of causing actual bodily harm.

He was sentenced to a community order of 12 months, involving 60 hours unpaid work.

He was also ordered to pay his victim £300 compensation, plus a fine of £300 and costs of £1,200.

Recorder Winston Roddick said: "It was an

unprovoked, sustained act of violence which resulted in injury."

He said that after an evening in Cardiff, there was an altercation concerning £10 towards the cost of a bus.

At the rugby club, said the Recorder, Griffin attacked Mr Holley, punching him to the face.

"Others separated them, but Griffin persisted."

He added: "It was disgusting conduct, although the injuries were minor."

Griffin, said the Recorder, telephoned Mr Holley and apologised profusely.

He said: "There are many exceptional references in support of you, and I am reminded that you have been humiliated by the experience."

"Assault in this category can result in immediate imprisonment, but I have decided I need not take that course."

Prosecutor Martin

Kelly said the incident occurred in the rugby club car park in the early hours of May 11.

Griffin's counsel, Ben Blakemore, said: "The victim is a stoic chap who has had no difficulties with his injuries. Griffin offered to resign from the committee but it was not accepted."

He said he assists with youth in the club, and helps manage the team. "He does a great deal of charity and community work, and had an exemplary character."

"His family is extremely proud of him, and he of them."

"It was a foolish over-reaction to a perceived scenario. It was not pre-meditated, and he has to live with his loss of good character."

Mr Blakemore said there was considerable shame and remorse, and Griffin had already been hit financially with legal costs.

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LEFT: The Thingumijigs, who will be helping Cowbridge Fairtrade and the Fairtrade group at the comprehensive school to raise funds.

Fairtrade Ceilidh planned at Cowbridge Comprehensive

COWBRIDGE Fairtrade and the Fairtrade Group at Cowbridge Comprehensive School have joined forces to hold a ceilidh at the comprehensive school hall on Saturday, March 3, to raise funds to help Fairtrade locally and the

school's efforts to support a school in South Africa.

They are delighted that local band, Thingumijigs, has agreed to play for the dancing and there will be light refreshments available and soft drinks, but you are welcome to bring any other alcoholic drinks.

Doors open at 7pm with dancing from 7.30pm to 11pm.

Tickets are £5 for adults and £2 for children and are available from the school, the Living Cafe (now at the old Oxfam shop in Cowbridge) or email cowbridgefairtrade@gmail.com.

'Childbirth' nearly new sale
A NEARLY new sale on behalf of The National Childbirth Trust Vale and Valleys branch is taking place at Cowbridge Leisure Centre on Saturday, March 3.

It runs from 11am-12.30pm (doors open 10.45am for NCT members with membership card).

Entrance suggested donation £1 per family. Baby/children's clothes, toys, equipment (e.g. prams) and maternity wear.

Sellers should contact Julie on 01656 662564 to pre-register by February 29 (and for details of what can or can't be sold) or email ntnearlynewsales@live.co.uk.

Donations of cakes and raffle prizes gratefully received. We will be selling cakes, tea and coffee. Why not come along to support us, buy some amazing bargains and take a break for tea and cakes?

Country market

COWBRIDGE Country Market (formerly WI Market) will re-open at 10am (9.45am for mothers with children in pushchairs and anyone who is disabled), on Friday, March 2 in the Lesser Hall.

On sale will be the usual range of homemade produce, preserves, including new seasons marmalade and the usual craft items.

Country Markets will also be present at the Farmers Market on Saturday, March 3. The market will be opening on Maundy Thursday, April 5 instead of Good Friday.

Local school's charity events aim to boost Help for Heroes



ABOVE: St David's Primary School staff and governors enjoying the spring term Help for Heroes charity lunch.

BY KEITH E MORGAN

STAFF at St David's Church-in-Wales Primary School, Colwinston, have been raising funds for 'Help the Heroes' in two rather unique ways.

Each term, the staff hold a 'Help for Heroes' lunch in the teachers' common room.

The lunches, which are organised by Lucy Higgins, the school's administrator, who has a son who is a serving soldier in the armed forces, are well supported by the

school staff.

Lucy's son, Capt Matthew Higgins, has already done one tour of duty in Afghanistan and is currently waiting to go overseas again.

Lucy also organises a 'Cake Thursday' each week during the school term. This is also well supported by members of staff.

Last term, the school was able to send a cheque for £300 to the 'Help for Heroes' charity, an amount they are aiming to exceed this term.

NFU relocates to single office in Bridgend

BOTH the Laleston and Cowbridge NFU Cymru offices have re-located to one new office on the Bridgend Business Centre, just outside the town centre.

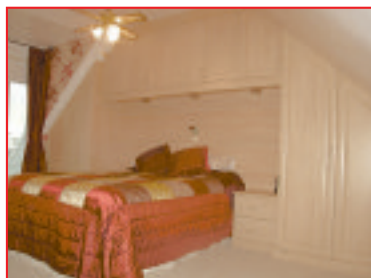
Local group secretary Julian Kelly said: "Members, along with insurance customers, are now able to take advantage of the improved services on offer in the joint office.

"Our customers can now come in and discuss confidential matters in the new consultation room. This should mean a much better and more flexible service for local NFU Cymru members and insurance customers."

The new address is Unit 1A, Morien House, Bridgend Business Centre, Bridgend Ind Est, Bridgend, CF31 3SH.

The two previous telephone numbers still stand.

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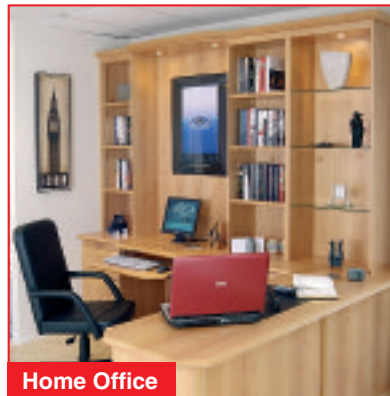
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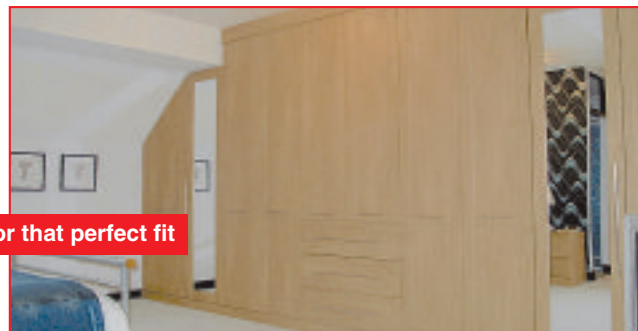


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Public exhibitions to be held in the Vale 'LDP consultation must affect planning outcomes' claims a local campaigner

THE six week consultation period for the Vale's Local Development Plan began earlier this week on February 20.

For people who have an interest in how the

area will develop over the next two decades, it is an opportunity to make their views made known to local authority decision makers.

The LDP can impact on issues such as housing, tourism, employment and business.

Coun Jeffrey James,

by **TIM CHAPMAN**

the cabinet member for planning and transportation, urged people in the Vale to provide feedback.

He said: "The draft plan provides the focus for sustainable growth and regeneration of all our communities while protecting the environment for future generations."

"Once adopted, the plan will ensure that key decisions relating to the future use of land, and proposals for development, are made consistently, based on policies that are up to date and fit for purpose."

"I would like to thank all those who have engaged in the process to date and look forward to receiving people's views on what is an important strategic document."

But one veteran of local campaigns on planning issues argued that the consultation might be viewed as a "charade" because the system was just not

accountable enough.

Dennis Harkus, who helped to organise opposition to a development of flats at Cemetery Approach, told The GEM: "Planners appear unaccountable to the democratic process for the actions and recommendations they make."

"The planning and decision-making process seems remote, unresponsive to challenge, and the decision takers involved appear aloof and dismissive to concerns that do not complement the desired outcome."

"My experience has been gained from the Cemetery Approach and White Farm proposals."

"Decision makers appeared to treat the development plan in those instances as a 'pic n' mix' document."

To illustrate his point, Mr Harkus described the changing perceptions of White Farm over the decades - from sacred green space on one side of the spectrum to a suitable space for more houses on the other side of the spectrum.

"In the case of White Farm, planners started

off in 1980 describing this land as 'a county treasure', a proposed 100 acre park and a 'green lung'.

"But an independent inspector's recommendation in 2000 was for 5.2 hectares of housing - but that changed to 6.3 hectares, and from 130 dwellings to a recommendation of 177!"

Mr Harkus said that unless the consultation itself affected outcomes, the community would look upon it as pointless.

During the consultation period the 'Deposit LDP', together with supporting documents, can be viewed at the council's main offices and libraries or on the council's website.

Public exhibitions will be held at:

West House, Penarth (Saturday, March 3, 10am - 1pm and Wednesday, March 14, 2pm - 7pm).

Cowbridge Town Hall, (Saturday, March 10, 10am - 1pm and Tuesday, March 20, 2pm - 7pm).

Llantwit Major Town Hall (Wednesday, February 29, 2pm - 7pm and Saturday, March 24 10am - 1pm).

Dock Office, Barry (normal office hours throughout the six week public consultation period and on Saturday, March 17, 10am - 1pm).

Representations can be made using an online comment form, which will be available at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Paper forms will also be available from Vale libraries and main council offices.

The closing date for comments on the plan is Monday, April 2 2012, 5pm. The council will not consider representations submitted after that date.

The end of an era for aircraft maintenance at RAF St Athan base

TODAY, February 23, 2012, the last Royal Air Force aircraft will leave the base at MoD St Athan after 75 continuous years of aircraft maintenance, modification, repair and overhaul of military aircraft.

The RAF base at St Athan opened in 1937 and has served as a flying and ground training station as well as an aircraft maintenance base for the last 75 years.

Just before - and during - World War Two, many different types of aircraft were assembled, test flown and maintained at St Athan, as well as at near-by Llandow, which in those days was connected to St Athan by a taxiway that can still be seen to this day when flying over the area.

Since the war, various aircraft types have been maintained at St Athan including the following:

Auster, Beaver, Beverley, Buccaneer, several marks of Canberra, Dominie, Harrier, Hawk, Hunter,

Hurricane, Jaguar, Javelin, Jetstream, Lancaster, Lightning, Lincoln, several marks of Meteors, Phantom F4, Shackleton, Spitfire, all marks of Tornado, Twin Pioneer, Valiant, Vampire, Venom, Victor, Vulcan and finally the VC10.

It is the final VC10 tanker aircraft which will be the last to leave, the type being continuously maintained at St Athan for the past 20 years.

Once the last aircraft has left the base today, DSG St Athan will close and disband and that, very sadly, is that.

At its peak, 3,500 service and civilian personnel were in involved in aircraft maintenance at the unit and from next month that number will have gradually reduced over the years to zero.

All a great shame really, especially because between the Welsh Government and the Ministry of Defence, more than £200 million pounds has been spent at the site in the last 10 years with little or nothing to show for it.

The £100 million plus Red Dragon hangar remains empty as do many of the other aircraft maintenance facilities at the base.

Wg Cdr I N Cyder RAF (retired)



The Spitfire.



ABOVE: A VC10 about to land.

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Wg Cdr I N Cyder RAF (retired)

Latest Barrivale bridge results

Here are the recent results from the Barrivale Bridge Club:

Tuesday, February 14, Session 2 Mixed pairs championship; 1st Carol James & Mike Cose 76.1.

2nd Alan Jones & Lyn Matthews 56.9, 3rd Sean MacDougall &

Diana Kendrick 53.17. Carol & Mike also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road Barry on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

MB



DROP-IN SESSIONS ABOUT THE EMISSION REDUCTION PROJECT AT ABERTHAW POWER STATION

RWE npower is currently developing proposals to install technology at Abertthaw Power Station that would limit emissions of the NO_x released as a result of the combustion process and further reduce the environmental impact of the station.

The next stage of the Emission Reduction Project will be to submit a planning application to Vale of Glamorgan Council to fit the technology, known as selective catalytic reduction (SCR), later this year. We will also be seeking a variation to our operating licence from the Environment Agency to incorporate these improvements to the station.

In advance of the application submission, we are holding three drop-in sessions to provide you with an opportunity to find out more about our proposals and speak to RWE npower representatives about any questions you might have.

The sessions will take place on:

Thursday 1 March - 12:00 until 19:00

Rhosse Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhosse, CF82 3EZ

Friday 2 March - 12:00 until 19:00

St Athan Community Hall, Glynwrt Avenue, St Athan, CF62 4PP

Saturday 3 March - 13:00 until 17:00

Llantwit Major, Llantwit Major, CF61 1TF

We hope to see you at one of these sessions and look forward to hearing your views and answering any questions you might have about our proposals. In the meantime, if you require further information please contact us at abertthaw@rwenpower.com.

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CONFIRMATION OF BYELAWS PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS ACT1964 VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

NOTICE is hereby given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council intend, after expiry of the one calendar month from the publication date of this notice to apply to the Welsh Government for confirmation of Byelaws made by the Council under section 19 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

Copies of the Byelaws will be kept at the office of the Council at Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU, and will be open to inspection without payment on any weekday during usual office hours for one calendar month from and after the date of publication of this notice. Copies of the Byelaws will also be supplied on receipt of an application accompanied by a fee of £2.00 for each copy.

Any objection to the confirmation of these Byelaws may be made by letter addressed to Alyson Tyler, Library Development Adviser, CYMAL, Welsh Government, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UR within one calendar month from the publication date of this notice.

P.H. Evans, Director of Legal, Public Protection and Housing Services

Dated the 16th February, 2012



CADARNHAU IS-DEDDFAU DEDDF LLYFRGELLOEDD CYHOEDDUS AC AMGUEDDFEYDD 1964 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg ymhen mis calendr ar ôl dyddiad yr hysbysiad hwn, yn gwneud cais i Lywodraeth Cymru am gadarnhau'r is-ddeddfau a wnaeth y Cyngor o dan adran 19 Deddf Llyfrgelloedd Cyhoeddus ac Amgueddfeydd 1964.

Bydd copïau o'r Is-ddeddfau'n cael eu cadw yn Swydddydd Dinesig y Cyngor, Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4RU, ac ar gael i'w harchwilio'n rhad ac am ddim ar unrhyw ddiwrnod yn ystod yr wythnos am fis calendr ar ôl dyddiad cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn. Cewch gopïau o'r Is-ddeddfau hefyd drwy anfon cais a £2.00 o dal am bob copi.

Gellwch wrthwynebu cadarnhau'r Is-ddeddfau hyn drwy anfon llythyr at Alyson Tyler, Ymgynghorydd Datblygu Llyfrgelloedd, CYMAL, Lywodraeth Cymru, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UR cyn pen mis calendr ar ôl dyddiad cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn.

P.H. Evans, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Arddiffyn y Cyhoedd a Thai

Dyddiedig Dyfiedig 16 Chwefror 2012



AM praises team behind Llangan's schoolroom revamp



PICTURED: Jane Hutt AM with Gareth Williams, Liz Matthews, David Reed and the builder Stuart Smith of SJS

SUPPORTED by the Welsh Government's Community Facilities and Activities Project Scheme, the Parish Church Council and Awards for All, a £160,000 plus investment in the old schoolroom at St Canna Church, Llangan, has resulted in a new community venue, as well as a transformed vestry for this 'hidden gem' in the western Vale.

Vale AM, Jane Hutt, visited St Canna Church to meet the team who helped make this happen and to view the results of this substantial investment in the church and community.

She was told that already they have a popular programme of

events in the new venue – providing excellent facilities, including a disabled WC and kitchen facilities.

The Vale AM and Finance Minister said: "It is great to see how funding from the Welsh Government for community facilities has been put to such good use with support from the Parish Church Council and Lottery Awards for All scheme.

"This is a wonderful church in the rural Vale where the famous minister David Jones, 'the Angel of Llangan', preached at the end of the 18th century. The new community room has been brilliantly designed and built. I am sure it will be greatly enjoyed by the local community."

Local boy selected for GB elite squad

A BRIDGEND boy has been accepted into the national Tae Kwon Do training squad – the first step on a long road that could lead to a future Olympic Games appearance.

Cameron Davies, a Llantwit Major Comprehensive pupil aged 14, is the only junior from Wales to be accepted for the UK national Tae Kwon Do cadet squad.

He recently travelled to Manchester for the trials, where there was considerable competition for the places on

the training squad.

His mother, Jackie, told The GEM: "I am very proud. Cameron was picked out and given special praise and feedback at the presentation at the end of the trials by the GB coach Steve Jennings.

"He also had praise from Olympic medallist and MBE Sarah Stevenson. Now the hard work really begins.

"He will now have to travel regularly to Manchester to the academy for training, where he will be coached by the GB coaches."



ABOVE: Cameron Davies with GB coach Steve Jennings.

Keira-Jo wins top volunteer award

KEIRA-JO Stanton from Llantwit Major has been chosen as the Soroptimist International Cardiff and District Young Volunteer of 2011.

Fifteen-year-old Keira-Jo, a student at C o o b r i d g e Comprehensive, has been freely giving her time and enthusiasm to help others since she was 12.

She has used her experience of being bullied at school to become a peer educator through the medium of dance, which she has always loved. She supports youth workers, runs dance classes, sets up projects, and has become a mentor to other youngsters with problems.

Senior youth worker Cath Miles said: "Keira

has become a positive role model for her peers and provides support, encouragement and inspiration."

Soroptimist International is an international women's service organisation, committed to helping women and girls achieve their full potential. More than 40 schools and youth centres in the Vale Cardiff areas were invited to nominate girls for this exciting new annual award, which recognises volunteer work in the community.

Keira-Jo went along to Churchill's Hotel in Cardiff to meet club members and to receive her award citation, together with a cash award of £100, which she is putting towards a volunteering trip to South Africa.

Family service

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a family service this Sunday, February 26 at 10am.

The worship will focus on a theme of disci-

ple, using the Noah's Ark story and Jesus' calling of his first disciples as examples, and will be suitable for all ages. Refreshments are served afterwards on the new gallery floor – all are welcome. MG

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Vale children on stage with musical maestro



PICTURED: Seven of the eight children taking part (George Neeson was absent in the rehearsal) who are all aged between 9-13 years old, with musical director of the project Tim Rhys Evans, and Only Men Aloud choir mentors Craig Yates, David Mahoney and Dan Phillips.

EIGHT local youngsters – Huw Jones from Cowbridge, Seren Fflyr Hamilton from Llantwit Major, Elinor Parsons from St Athan, Rebekah West from Dinas Powys, Ceri Vaughan-Jones from Llantriddd and Lucy Miles, Darcey Corria and George Neeson from Barry – will be appearing alongside maestro Valery Gergiev with Mariinsky Opera in Cardiff, as part of the Only Kids Aloud chorus this spring.

Tim Rhys-Evans, managing director of Only Men Aloud, in association with Wales Millennium Centre, has scoured Wales for talented young girls and boys to create an 85-strong children's choir which will perform alongside the world famous Mariinsky Opera on the Donald Gordon Stage at Wales Millennium Centre on April 1.

Mariinsky Opera of St Petersburg, Russia will perform a concert version of Wagner's *Parsifal* and Mahler's 8th Symphony under conductor Valery Gergiev.

The BBC National Chorus of Wales will also be forming part of the large chorus required for these works.

Vale AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery on Saturday, February 25, at Cowbridge Town Hall from 10am to 12 noon. No appointment necessary.



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Web: www.vvb.org.uk

PACT meetings across the Vale

BARRY PACT: CADOC PACT public meeting will be held at 6pm on February 28 at Palmerston Community Learning Centre, Cadoc Crescent, Barry.

COURT PACT: public meeting will be held at 7pm on March 8 at Ysgol Maes Dyfan, Gibbonsdown Rise, Barry.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact Barry Neighbourhood Policing team on 01446 731623 or you can log onto www.ourbobby.com.

VALE PACT: RHOOSE PACT public meeting will be held on February 23 at Celtic Way Community Centre at 7pm.

TWYN-YR-ODYN coffee and chat meeting will be held on February 28 at the Horse and Jockey public house at 11am.

YSTRADOWEN 'coffee and chat' meeting will be held at the White Lion public house

on March 6 at 11.30am.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing team on: Llantwit Major 01656 869447 or Cowbridge 01656 869450 or you can log onto www.ourbobby.com.

PENARTH PACT: STANWELL PACT public meeting will be held on March 2 in Elfed Avenue United Church at 7pm.

PLYMOUTH PACT public meeting will be held on March 7 in Lower Penarth Community Centre, Brookhill Way at 7pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a Penarth meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing team on 02920 527361 or you can log onto www.ourbobby.com.

Recycling levels are up in the Vale

VALE residents now recycle, compost and reuse an impressive 54.48 per cent of their waste, according to results for October, November and December 2011 – a figure that is up by 11 per cent compared to the same period the previous year.

Coun Geoffrey Cox, cabinet member for visible and building services at the Vale Council, praised residents for supporting recent changes in waste management collections, saying: "I regularly meet residents whose passion and enthusiasm for recycling is apparent. This is especially so since we moved to our co-mingled recycling system in September."

"Evidently our residents are responding

positively to reducing, reusing and recycling even more. I thank everyone involved for their efforts and recognise that performance improvements have only been achieved by their hard work and goodwill."

A recent survey revealed that 80 per cent of respondents strongly agreed that co-mingled makes it easier to recycle, while 62 per cent strongly agreed they will recycle even more now the Vale has a co-mingled service.

The council recently announced that Vale residents could recycle three new materials in their weekly collections. Clean foil (uncontaminated by food and chemicals), cartons (such as those used for juice, smoothies and pet food) and emptied aerosols are all being accepted, along with paper, glass, cans, card and plastic.

The Welsh Government has set all local authorities the same targets for minimum levels of preparing for reuse, recycling and composting for municipal waste; failure could mean heavy fines may be imposed. By 2012/13 the Vale must achieve 52 per cent.

MASKED BALL THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan is hosting a charity masked ball on Saturday, April 28, at Dyffryn Gardens.

The evening begins with a bucks fizz reception followed by a four-course dinner with dancing with the Bridgend Swing Band. Tickets £30 each, available from the Mayor's office on 01446 709301. All proceeds will go to the Mayor's charities, Myeloma UK; Llamau; and Action for Children.



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Officer redundancy packages questioned by local campaigner

PROPOSALS on how the Vale of Glamorgan Council's senior management will be restructured should be finalised soon.

The council points out that there are 'set arrangements' that govern how much employees get in the event of redundancy.

However, one campaigner on local issues in Barry claimed there would be "outrage" if senior council staff were given big redundancy payments at council tax payers' expense.

Speaking on behalf of Barry Plaid Cymru, Steven Blakeman said: "It's about time that the Vale Council came clean about the redundancy packages that are being considered for the top tier of officers."

"There was supposed to be a special council meeting when this was to be discussed but it was pulled at the last minute."

Mr Blakeman, who has campaigned for a better anti-flood infrastructure in the town for more than four years, added: "What my neighbours and I'm sure, the whole town wants to know is

how much is this going to cost us?"

"These officers are already paid very well. In excess of £130,000, I believe."

"Why should they be in line for massive and unnecessary pay offs?"

Mr Blakeman claimed there would be concern if the officers received 'golden goodbyes' on top of their usual salaries and pensions.

"Is it true that each well paid executive is likely to receive, in addition to their usual pay and their pension, an extra golden goodbye in the order of £30,000 tax free?"

"How could this pos-

sibly be justified? We could be heading for a £100,000 total pay-out."

"Think what this money could do in the town. Maybe some of the dreadful potholes could be repaired. How about some substandard pavements being resurfaced?"

The GEM put Mr Blakeman's concerns to the Vale Council and a spokeswoman explained: "Proposals to restructure the council senior management have not yet been agreed."

"The proposals will go before full council in the near future."

"When any council officer is made redundant there are set arrangements that govern their redundancy package - these arrangements apply to all grades of staff, including chief officers."

Cowbridge learns all about African charity

A LOCAL charity, 'Africa Mothers Foundation', held a lively Zimbabwe information evening, with African food and talks at the Little Shop of Calm, Cowbridge, on Sunday, February 19.

The Cardiff-based charity is a women led organisation linking communities in Wales and Zimbabwe, to help end global poverty by educating girls.

The evening was opened by Vale based horticulturalist Sophie Durnan, who runs the Riverside Market Garden and box scheme in St Hilary.

She gave a report of her visit to Zimbabwe in November to see a women's co-operative, The Sezanani

Garden, which is being assisted by the charity.

Bekezela Nsingo, the charity's Zimbabwean-born founder, gave a highly motivational talk of how her life had been changed by education and how this had enabled her to begin the charity.

Currently more than 1,050 young girls have their schooling fees paid through the Keep Girls in School campaign. This costs just \$10 per term per child.

The evening was a chance for people from across the Vale to find out how they could get involved, delicious African food was provided and over £100 was raised for this good cause. Thank you to everyone who attended.

For more information, visit www.africanmothersfoundation.org. SD



ABOVE: Coun Jeff James is optimistic that funding for traffic lights on the Docks Link Road will be forthcoming in the next financial year.

The Vale Council has submitted a bid for funding to the Welsh Government to enable it to implement work to resolve the road safety issues on the Docks Link Road.

If the bid is successful, the scheme would include the introduction of traffic signals at the Coldbrook Road East and Argae Lane junctions.

The scheme is being supported by the South East Wales Transport Alliance and would be delivered in the new financial year - after April 1.

Coun Jeffrey James, the cabinet member for

INTRODUCTION OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT MAIN JUNCTION Vale Council seeks funds for the Docks Link Road

planning and transportation, said: "The need for new safety measures on this stretch of road is indisputable and a top priority for the Vale Council's road safety programme and we are extremely confident that the bid will be accepted."

"The council has an excellent track record of delivering road safety schemes in recent years, and I am sure that the ability of this council to deliver on key road safety measures will be a factor which the Welsh Government will take into account when considering the bid."

There has been a general acceptance that while fatalities on the road have not necessarily been caused by the configuration of it (driver errors have sometimes been a cause), slowing the speed of traffic would be beneficial - hence the idea of lights.

One Barry resident has been in touch with the Vale Council because he is so concerned at the length of time it has taken to sort out safety on the road.

Mr Jeff Heathfield claimed people were



Barry residents, Jeff Heathfield (right) and Dennis Harkus say something needs to be done on the link road as a matter of urgency, becoming frustrated by a lack of action.

He said: "The Vale Council has dragged its heels on this very dangerous road for far too long."

"I wanted to remind the council about this issue because I know many Barry people are frustrated that nothing is happening."

"The opposition and the council seem feeble on this matter and I believe members of the public need to intervene in council business to get things moving."

"Those standing for election want our vote in a few weeks, so now is

the time to raise awareness. "I feel the community has had more than enough public posturing about this dangerous road and it's time something was done."

Mr Heathfield added: "Actions speak louder than words: this has dragged on for far too long."

Free admission to Dyffryn Gardens

TO celebrate St David's Day, Dyffryn Gardens will be open to the public for free on Sunday, February 26.

Opening times are 10am - 4pm, with the last entry admitted at 3pm.

For more details, visit www.dyffryngardens.org.uk

Dyspraxia group's March meeting

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, March 5 at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD, Tourettes).

APPEAL AFTER RACING BIKE IS STOLEN



A picture of the bike stolen in Penarth.

POLICE in Penarth are appealing for information after a distinctive racing bike was stolen on Windsor Road on Wednesday (February 15).

The Cube Agree men's racing bike, which is worth £1,600, was

stolen from outside Pearn's Pharmacy at around 9am. The model is rare in this country and was specially imported by the owner from Germany.

Anyone who may have witnessed the theft, or may have seen the bike since, is asked to contact Penarth Police Station on 101.

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Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru; 40 Parc Tŷ Glas, Llanishen, Caerdydd CF14 5DU
Chwefror 23 2012

Parthedd: Rhybudd o Gais (Deddf Trwyddedu 2003) Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru, Bro Morgannwg 2012

Cyflwynwyd cais i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Bro Morgannwg ar y dyddiad uchod am drwydded mangre er mwyn cynnal Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2012 ar y tiroedd canlynol:

Tir ger Llandŷ, Bro Morgannwg (hen faes awyr - SS957717)

Rhwng Mehefin 6 - Awst 2, a rhwng Awst 12 - Medi 30 2012 cyflenwi Alchohol (gweithwyr yn unig)
12:00 - 24:00

Rhwng Awst 4 - 11 2012, ar gyfer y gweithgareddau, ac yn ystod yr oriau canlynol:

Gweithgaredd	Amser cychwyn	Amser gorffen
Dramau	8.00a.m.	1.00p.m.
Ffilmiau	8.00a.m.	11.00p.m.
Digwyddiadau		
Chwaraeon dan dŵ	9.00a.m.	6.00p.m.
Cerddoriaeth Fyw	8.00a.m.	1.30a.m.
Cerddoriaeth wedi'i recordio	9.00a.m.	1.30a.m.
Perfformiadau dawns	8.00a.m.	11.00p.m.
Creu cerddoriaeth	8.00a.m.	11.00p.m.
Dawnsio	8.00a.m.	1.00a.m.
Darparu lluniaueth		
hwyrnos	11.00p.m.	5.00a.m.
Cyflenwi alcohol	11.00a.m.	1.00a.m.

Gellir gweld copi o'r cais llawn yn yr Adran Drwyddedu, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Holton Road, Y Barri CF62 7AH yn ystod oriau gwaith arferol.

Dylid cyflwyno unrhyw wrthwynebiad (sydd yn ymwneud â'r pedwar nod trwyddedu) yn ysgrifenedig at yr Adran Drwyddedu yn y cyfeiriad uchod, erbyn Mawrth 21 2012.

Mae'n drosedd (adran 158 o'r ddeddf Drwyddedu 2003) i wneud datganiad anghywir, un-ai o friad neu yn ddihid mewn perthynas â'r cais hwn, gyda dirwy o £5,000 os y deddfydri chi yn euog o'r drosedd honno.

This is a statement made under the Licensing Act 2003, that an application has been made for a premises licence to hold the National Eisteddfod of Wales on land near Llandow in the Vale of Glamorgan (old airfield), between June 6 - September 30 2012. Full details of the application can be obtained by contacting the Licensing Dept., Vale of Glamorgan BC, Holton Road, Barry CF62 7AH during normal office hours. Any representations (relating to the four licensing objectives) must be made to the Vale of Glamorgan BC by March 21 2012.

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to £5000 (under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003) knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application.

ESU lunch in Cardiff

THE South Wales branch of the English Speaking Union (ESU) held a lunch at the Cardiff City Stadium last week, when over 100 members attended.

An enthralling talk was given by retired diplomat Stephen Day entitled 'Is the Arab Spring turning sour?'

Stephen served in the Yemen, Canada, Beirut and the United Nations and was Ambassador to Qatar and Tunisia.

He gave the background and experiences

of working with political leaders, and his views on events in the Middle East in the last year and on future changes in the area. He then stayed to answer questions, and members hope that he will pay a return visit next year.

The next meeting will be on April 11, when Colin Dexter will speak on 'Morse' and 'Crosswords'. The ESU schools' public speaking finals will also be in March.

For details contact chairman Derek Morgan on 01656 669129.



THE speaker Stephen Day (right) with Mrs Lyn Beck, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan and (behind) Derek Morgan, Branch chairman.

Plaid planning coffee morning

THE residents of Llandough are invited to a free coffee morning on Saturday, February 25, in the Llandough Memorial Hall, Penlan Road, 10am to 11.30am.

The invitation has been issued by the local

Plaid Cymru team and is an opportunity to discuss local matters. One talking point is the council's plans for 170 houses in the community.

Steve Thomas (Plaid spokesperson) said that the new build would be along Penarth Road/Llandough Hill and also along Leckwith Road.

Flog it! coming Cardiff museum

POPULAR BBC2 antiques programme Flog It!, presented by Paul Martin, is coming to Cardiff.

The major BBC2 antiques series regularly gets an audience of two million viewers each weekday, and the National Museum Cardiff will be hosting a

valuation day on Monday February 27 from 9.30am until 4pm.

Rather like a treasure hunt, members of the public are invited to bring along up to three antiques and collectables they might be interested in selling. Once valued, the owner and team of experts decide whether it should go forward for auction. If the item is chosen it is sold a few weeks later – often with the owner making a tidy sum.

Everyone who goes along will receive a free valuation, even if their antiques are not chosen to go forward for auction.

Previous programmes have seen a small cream jug sold at auction for £1,300; a ceramic bowl, bought for £4 at a car boot sale, achieving £1,500; and a lady in Aberdeen sold a Shelley tea set for a huge £3,400!

More recently, a gentleman who brought in a ceremonial cup made from rhino horn: it later sold for £44,000!

Series Producer Heidi Ellert says: "Paul Martin and the entire Flog It! team are really looking forward to bringing the show to Wales. National Museum Cardiff is housed in such a magnificent building full of fascinating artifacts; it will provide the perfect setting for our valuation day event."

"We all hope you will join us on the day for a free valuation. If you've ever wondered how much your boot sale bargains or clutter in the loft might be worth, now is your chance to find out."

Presenter Paul Martin will be joined on the day by antiques experts Mark Stacey and Catherine Southon.

The National Museum Cardiff is at Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP. The Grand Hall and restaurant are the only areas of the museum which will be open on the filming day; all others will remain closed.

The auction will take place on Thursday, March 21 at Anthemion Auctions and will be broadcast as part of the eleventh series.

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OPEN DAY - Join us at the Boverton Branch for a tour and free refreshments on 1st March.



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At the Animal Health Centre, we are always trying to improve the service we offer our clients and in 2012 will be investing in improving our Boverton practice. Some of you may have noticed our fun logo which greets you in the waiting room. We gave the tired facade a face lift and stylish new signage. To entertain you while you wait we now have music playing in reception.

We hope you agree that it now looks and feels much better. To continue to provide a high standard of care for your pets, we have purchased brand new dental and anaesthetic machines meaning that

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Book festival launches a Vale writing competition

THIS year, Cowbridge Book Festival is establishing a creative writing competition as part of its aim to promote an interest in and appreciation of literature.

With three separate categories organisers are optimistic that there will be an enthusiastic response.

Stella Cheeseman, the festival co-ordinator, explained: "Here is an opportunity for everyone over the age of 16, who enjoys writing, to put their literary skills to the test."

"Their task is to compose an introductory chapter to a short story in not more than 750 words."

"There will be cash



prizes of £100, £50, and £25."

Word processed entries must be sent to: Cowbridge Book Festival 2012, Creative Writing Competition, Cowbridge Community College, Old Hall, High St, Cowbridge, CF71 7AH by April 1 2012.

Enquiries should be directed to: vivienne.charlton@talk-talk.net.

The children's categories are open to children who live in the Vale,

and primary and secondary school children should ask in their school for competition details.

So, it is now time to sharpen your pencils and get in touch with your creative side. Who knows, the winners might feature in next year's festival!

● Don't forget to make a note in your diary of the festival dates - May 11-18. Details of the schedule and how to buy tickets will become available over the next few weeks, and you can visit the festival website at www.cowbridgebook-festival.co.uk.

BIG SCREEN

BIG Screen's next presentation is Resistance (Cert PG) on Thursday, February 23 at 7.30pm in the town hall.

Imagine Great Britain conquered by the Nazis in World War Two. Wales, as always, is on the western fringes of the new state.

In a remote valley, the menfolk are determined to fight for their freedom, escaping to the hills and leaving their wives and lovers behind.

Set in the war, but by no means a war film, it is from the novel by Owen Sheers and starring Michael Sheen and Andrea Riseborough.

Doors open 7.10pm. Tickets £3 (available in advance from the town clerk's office, or on the door).

Big Screen is the trading name of the Vale of Glamorgan Film Society, a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers; Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge, 01446 771929.



Members of the parish enjoy the sunshine with Father Edmund outside Our Lady and St Illtyd.

New parish priest arrives from Ghana - via Newport!

FATHER Edmund Neizer, the newly-appointed priest to the Catholic parish of Our Lady and St Illtyd, Llantwit Major and St Cadoc, Cowbridge, said his first Mass in Llantwit Major on February 1.

Paul Lindsay, the chairman of the Parish Advisory Council, expressed the feeling of all parishioners when he said he was delighted with Father Edmund's appointment.

Born in Tema, the largest sea port city in Ghana, West Africa, Father Edmund was ordained in July 1996 to the Catholic Archdiocese of Accra. He then served in different, increasingly wide-ranging positions, before being appointed

parish priest of St Kizito Catholic Church in Nima, eventually becoming Dean of Accra East Deanery.

A church spokesman said: "In that position, we had heard warm recollections of his time there from former Ghanaian students at Atlantic College!"

"In November 2010, Father Neizer was seconded to the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff and appointed assistant priest of All Saints Parish in Newport, a large and busy parish comprising six churches."

"Their loss is our immense gain, and Father's deep faith, warmth and energy are already having an impact on us all."

Fly grazing causes damage

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He added: "Later in the year, a more substantial path will be made from the road entrance to the bench, using 'grass crete'."

The horses, which were desperate for food, stripped the bark off many trees, and there was great concern as to whether they would survive.

Mr Jeffrey said: "The condition of the trees will be monitored throughout the year, and by October it should be clear which trees need replacing and which are developing well."

"In the autumn, a village tree planting occasion is planned, with native trees supplied by the Woodland Trust, who will also supervise the planting, and offer advice and suggestions."

"It is also hoped that specialist patches can be created in the wood - for example, a forest garden and/or a wild flower garden."

"These patches will not be allotments (which tend to have short-term aims and objectives), but will be an integral part of the development of Monks Wood for years to

come. "Other developments in the wood, such as a shelter or protected area made from willow or other growing hedge, are welcome, but funding may need to come from sources other than the Woodland Trust."

He added that some villagers had planted memorial trees in the wood, and that these could be replaced if necessary.

Mr Jeffrey reflected: "Are there any positives from 'fly grazing'?"

"Well, the wood is now nicely managed, and the grass around the base of the trees has been eaten which could be good for the trees."

"The dead grass between the trees has also been eaten, which exposes the soil for any seed brought by birds, mammals or villagers."

"We are all part of nature and nature has a great way of overcoming adversity."

"The wood will be here long after we have all returned to stardust, but before that, I hope the wood continues to provide pleasure to the folk in Wick and surrounding areas."

Cowbridge Comprehensive sports round-up

School athletes fly the flag well

ON January 11, a number of Cowbridge pupils from both year-7 and year-8 competed in a Cardiff and Vale Sports Hall Athletics competition.

With over 100 pupils participating from neighbouring schools, the competitions for the top spots were furiously contested.

Watching the pupils' race, it was evident that all had performed very well, but it was not until the results had come in that the true picture of their sublime performances was revealed.

In the 'two lap race', Dan Bunny came joint third, and Rhydian Williams (year-7) and Harrison Stevens came joint 23rd; in the 'four lap race', Cai Evans came 16th, Moses Gee (year-7) came 21st and Rhys Bradshaw (year-7) came 28th; in the 'six lap race', Dewi Bennett came fifth and Sean Davies came sixth; in the 'high jump', Kyle May-Rees came fifth and Cai Jones came seventh; in the 'vertical jump', Harrison Stevens came second, Kyle May-Rees came joint eighth, Cai Jones came 10th, and Sam Corkill (year-7) came 15th.

In the 'standing long jump', Dan Bunny came first, Harrison Stevens came second, Cai Evans came fifth, Sean Davies came 11th and Dewi Bennett came 25th; in the 'standing triple jump', Moses Gee (year-7) came sixth, Rhys Bradshaw (year-7) came 13th and Rhydian Williams (year-7) came 15th; in the 'shot put', Dan Bunny came fifth; in the 'speed bounce', Moses Gee (year-7) came joint fifth, Cai Evans came eighth, Rhydian Williams (year-7) and Rhys Bradshaw (year-7) came joint 14th, Sean Davies and Dewi Bennett came joint 17th and Sam Corkill (year-7) came joint 35th.

Well done boys, you performed to an extremely high standard. A big congratulations goes to the year-7 pupils who will find the competition a whole lot easier next year, but you never looked out of place.

Furthermore, huge congratulations goes out to Dan Bunny and Harrison Stevens, who have been selected to represent Cardiff and Vale in the Welsh Sports Hall Championships in March.

Rugby
THE year-7s and 8s played Glantaf

in a friendly rugby match.

With both teams being in the Vale finals, it was a perfect opportunity to stay fresh and keep the momentum going.

The year-7s have been playing some amazing rugby as of late, and this was again the story. Within the first few minutes, a try was scored by Bevan Howells who cut through the defence with ease.

The next try came about through sheer determination, as Max Cunningham drove through a number of defenders to score in the corner.

The third try came just before the end of the first half, with Rhys Durlucia powering through the Glantaf side, using his strength and size to his advantage.

At the end of the half the score was 21-0 to Cowbridge.

The Glantaf side were not out yet, and with their strong centres crashing into the defence and always making yards, they continued to seek a try of their own. They did not have to wait long, when their centre ran down the line to score in the corner.

The deficit was increased back to 21 points when Jake Griffiths picked up the ball from the base of the ruck and slid over the line.

The game was at a standstill for around 10 minutes, with neither attack able to cause significant damage, but during the last phase of ball, Glantaf's strong centre broke through to make the scores at the end of the match 28 - 12.

Well done year-7, keep on attending training and working hard; we have the Vale final coming up very soon, and we want to bring that cup home.

The year-8s game did not go as well as the year-7s' match.

Cowbridge got off to a great start with a try of their own, but Glantaf then responded with interest.

The Glantaf side were big and strong, and were able to exert their size in the contact area. They came back with two tries in the first half, and also scored two tries in the second half to put the game out of sight.

The end result was 26-7 to Glantaf.

The Cowbridge boys played extremely well, and all gave it 100 per cent, but with a number of key players missing or out of position, it

was always going to be a tough game.

Football

THE year-7 football team played Bro Morgannwg in the quarter-final of the Cardiff and Vale Cup, and with the year-7s losing in the semi-final of the Welsh Cup, they were out to make amends.

The game started very brightly for Cowbridge, with Rhydian Williams and Rhys Bradshaw having two shots cleared off the line.

The signs looked positive for a Cowbridge victory, until disaster struck.

From a through ball, Shaun Carpenter cleared the ball, and in doing so unfortunately tripped a Bro Morgannwg striker on the edge of the box.

From the resulting free-kick, Ellis Llewellyn made a brilliant save, but the ball went straight to a striker, who then turned the ball into the net.

Two minutes later, Bro Morgannwg were awarded a penalty, which they dispatched with a good finish, and within 10 minutes it was three as a mix up in defence allowed a striker to stay outside, and there was nothing the Cowbridge goalkeeper could do about it.

In the last 15 minutes of the first half

Cowbridge had the majority of possession - Olly Cooper was causing trouble on the right wing, Rhys Bradshaw and Moses Gee were working well together up front and Rhydian was beginning to control the middle of the field.

In the second half they were the better team, Moses had a volley dip just over the bar, Olly had a shot blocked in the six yard box, and Rhydian had a lob go just too far.

Then came a breakthrough. A penalty was given to Cowbridge, and was expertly put away by Moses Gee. After this Cowbridge kept on the offensive, but again just couldn't score.

At the end of the match, the score was 3-1, and Bro Morgannwg, who played extremely well had the victory.



COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

A future star
LOCAL rugby player, 19-year-old Luke Morgan recently won his first under-20 Welsh cap against Ireland, and his second against Scotland which took place last week.

He scored two tries and was named man of the match. Luke's parents, Julie and Phil Morgan of Graig Penllyn and his grandparents, Fay and Brian Manning of Treoes, are extremely proud and are waiting for the day when Luke gains his 'over 20' cap!

Cymanfa Canu
A CYMANFA Canu will take place in Saron Chapel, Treoes, on Sunday, March 25 at 6.30pm. Entry by pro-

gramme, adults £7, children and senior citizens £5.

The concert features Cor Meibion y Maclud (male voice choir from Cowbridge), with conductor Eric Dafydd, accompanist Carol Phillips and soloist Megan Morris (harp).

Tickets from Mary Crandon (01656 861933) or Jill Ham (01656 663693).

Reminder

ST David's Day celebrations will take place in the Treoes Village Hall on Saturday, March 3 at 7.30pm. Tickets are selling fast - to be sure of a place on this fun night, telephone 01656 646148.

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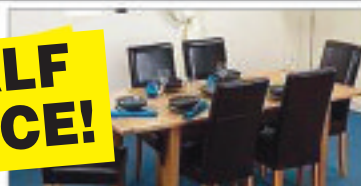
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Out and About with The GEM

Shocks and scares aplenty in creepy British horror film

PRIOR to November 2001, Daniel Radcliffe was merely a child actor who had popped up in small roles in TV's *David Copperfield* and *The Tailor of Panama*. One reasonably successful movie franchise later, in the shape of *Harry Potter*, and Radcliffe has become a bankable movie actor having also earned his spurs on the stage in *Equus* and *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*.

The first stage of his post-Potter career comes in *The Woman In Black*, where Radcliffe plays Arthur Kipps, a widowed lawyer who is tasked with sorting out the papers of a deceased woman. Travelling to the local village, Kipps soon discovers there is a vengeful ghost who is terrorising local children, and as he digs deeper into her backsto-

ry uncovers intrigue and mystery...

The first move of Daniel Radcliffe having put Harry Potter to rest was always going to draw attention, with people eager to see just what he was capable of outside of Hogwarts and spells. The answer, based on the evidence of *The Woman In Black*, is that Radcliffe has much promise, shining in what is a spooky and, at times, terrifying horror film that harks back to scares and jumps rather than blatant blood and gore.

Director James Watkins may have only made one film, but that effort, *Eden Lake*, was a chilling look at ASBO youth, and Watkins carries that air of malevolence into this film; the subject matter couldn't be further away, but tonally the films share the same air of suspense and danger.

Watkins' direction is steeped in the classic school of horror, delivering a showcase in showing only the merest hints and allowing the audience's expectations to take over. The result is jumps and scares that

SCREEN TALK



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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come sometimes out of the blue, sometimes just a moment before you expect them, Watkins cleverly plays with convention and offers fresh shocks that work incredibly well.

Visually he creates a bleak look to the film, the colours mainly greys and dark blues, shadows lingering on the edge of the shot; it

is impressive direction from Watkins, contributing plenty to the overriding feeling of spookiness and atmospheres that pervade every frame.

In the lead, Daniel Radcliffe is impressive as Kipps, and any lack of believability in him playing father to a young boy is superceded by his ability in playing the tortured lawyer caught up in a maelstrom of eerie happenings and spooky incidents.

It is a performance that requires reaction rather than action, but Radcliffe gives the character an edge of darkness and realism that brings him to life.

There is a solid supporting cast of British talent, Ciaran Hinds and Janet McTeer shining brightly as a troubled husband and wife who are trying to process their own problems with the ghostly woman; the former bringing a level of gravitas and mystery to the character, while the latter delivers a memorable, if slight (thanks to the script) turn. Her mental breakdown gives way to spooky outbreaks of writing that add to the ambience.

Jane Goldman's script does a good job of transferring the book

to the big screen, making it more filmic and handling the tone well, while the altered ending, though not quite the dramatic and hard hitting one of the original story, does at least give the film a poignant and emotional conclusion.

As good as the film is, there is a feeling of it building towards something that never comes. It ends with a whimper rather than the bang you would be expecting, but it is still a superbly-made and eerie offering that is a step above most horror offerings.

The Woman In Black is a scary film for the more discerning horror fan.

VERDICT: A nerve jangling, jumpy scarefest, *The Woman In Black* kickstarts Daniel Radcliffe's post-Potter career with oomph.

A strong central performance from the actor, along with skilled direction from James Watkins, makes the film a top quality effort that is definitely worth catching.

Recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Amityville Horror* (1979), *Dark Water* (2002).

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR, AND WHERE, IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

National judge's 'allotment' talk

LLANTWIT Major Horticultural Society's next meeting is on Wednesday, February 29 in the Llantonian Hall at 7.30pm.

Mr Mel Saunders, a National Vegetable Society Judge and former speaker at Pencoed College, will give an illustrated talk entitled 'The Allotment Through the Seasons'.

Admission to the talk, refreshments and raffle are free.

All are welcome, you do not have to be a member to attend.

For queries, contact the secretary Sylvia Geary on 01446 792087.

Atal-y-Fro fundraiser

ON International Women's Day, a women's aid project, Atal-y-Fro, is holding a fundraising event on March 8.

Tickets are on sale for £12, and includes a cabaret night and disco, with a hog roast.

There will be an awards ceremony with nominations for women who have helped within the community of the Vale in memory of Edwina Vaughan, who contributed endlessly to help women in the Vale.

The award is 'The Edwina Vaughan Award'. It will be given on the night of International Women's Day. Contact the office on 01446 744755 to purchase tickets for the evening.

Playing at Castle Folk

THE Castle Folk Club is proud to present Chris Moreton, the UK's premier flatpicker and world class lead guitarist, and bluegrass multi-instrumentalist.

On Wednesday, March 14 at 8pm, £5 a ticket (including food).

Call Geoff on 01446 402822 for ticket booking, or purchase from behind the bar at the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

Sporting memorabilia

KAREN TIMBRELL of Cardiff, whose daughter **Holly** was diagnosed with an incurable brain tumour at the age of 13, is auctioning various items of sporting memorabilia, which includes Wales rugby's football memorabilia, to raise desperately needed funds for Brain Tumour Research.

Bids need to be received by half-time (4.45pm) during the Wales v England Rugby International this Saturday, February 25.

Karen says: "As a family we are committed to doing all we can to raise funds for research into brain tumours. We want to help find a cure for this terrible disease before it is too late for Holly. We are aiming to raise as much as we can from a silent auction of four lots and hope that everyone will spread the word among their friends and families, as well as on Facebook and on Twitter."

The first lot is an official training shirt from the Wales Rugby World Cup 2011, signed by the entire squad.

Lot two is a framed collection of Welsh footballers autographs from the 2011 Football Association of Wales Awards.

Lot three is a signed photograph of middle-weight boxing legend, Jake LaMotta.

The fourth lot is a

Wales rugby ball signed by the 2009 squad.

To enter a bid for any of these items, send an email to rugbyshirt-bid@hotmail.co.uk, stating the lot you are bidding for with your highest bid.

Bidding closes on Saturday, February 25 at 4.45pm.

For further information, contact <http://www.justgiving.com/HollyTimbrell> or www.braintumourresearch.org



Win tickets! Live music at the Memo, with T Rextasy and Bublé Fever

Awarded the accolade of 'The Best Live Tribute Band in the UK' by the BBC, T.Rextasy bring one of the most flamboyant and charismatic bands of the original glam rock era to the Memo on Friday 2nd March. T.Rextasy play homage to Mark Bolan's biggest hits, such as '20th Century Boy', 'Telegram Sam', 'Metal Guru', 'I Love To Boogie', 'Get it On', and of course 'Children of the Revolution'.

Truly a rock'n'roll concert for all ages - If you would like to know exactly what a Marc Bolan concert was like in the 1970s, then this show is for you!

Charming, talented and utterly gorgeous it's no wonder that Rickie Arthur, from Newport, has been recognised as the best tribute to Michael Bublé in Europe! Rickie Arthur, and Bublé Fever, is setting the world of music alight at the Memo on Friday 9th March, with an unique and distinct interpretation of not just Bublé, but some of the world's greatest swing, big band and Motown artists.

A blinding blend of classical training, charisma and killer vocals quite literally raise the roof at every venue, with more lining up to book him, supported by his 7 piece live band.

To win two tickets for both events, just answer this question:

Q: Who was the lead singer of T Rex?

Name
Address and post code
Tel Email

Competition Rules:

1. Closing date for entries: 01.03.12
2. Winners will be randomly selected and informed on 01.03.12
3. Competition prize is two tickets for T Rextasy, Friday 2nd March and two tickets for Bublé Fever, Friday 9th March.

Send your answers to:

Memorial Hall and Theatre, Gladstone Road,
Barry CF62 8NA, Or email us at
boxoffice@barrymemo.co.uk with your answer.



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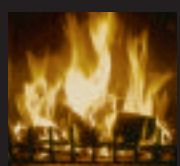
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Antique fair

AN antique and collectors' fair is at the Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff, on Sunday, February 26, 10am-4.30pm.

Stalls include militaria, glass, jewellery, furniture, Welsh shawls, vintage linen, ceramics, art, books and vintage fashion. Telephone 02920 512349 for more information.

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan

Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

The National Eisteddfod team are in their red camper van!

Eisteddfod Marketing Visits

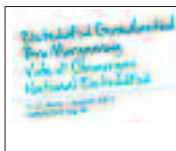
WITH the National Eisteddfod fast approaching, the festival team will be out and about in the Vale on February 28-29.

Travelling with Dilys, the super shiny red camper van, the team will whizz around the region distributing information, chatting to the public and businesses about what to expect at the Eisteddfod, held at

the old airfield in Llandow in August.

Festival chief executive, Elfed Roberts, says: "This is the first time for the National Eisteddfod to come to the Vale for 44 years, so while some people will have memories from last time, there are two generations of local people who will be finding out about the Eisteddfod for the first time this year."

"It's important for us to make sure that we promote the festival locally over the next few months, so we've hired Dilys the camper van for a few days over the next few months, to whisk us



around the Vale to meet as many people as we can.

"It's an important time for us as we launch our concerts programme on February 28 and all tickets will be on sale from March 1 onwards."

"Our latest information brochure will also be distributed across the whole of Wales from the end of the month."

"On Tuesday morning, February 28, catch us in Barry market, and then in the afternoon, we'll be out and about in Penarth. The following day, we'll be in Cowbridge in the morning and we'll then spend the afternoon in Llantwit Major, so if you're in any of those towns on Tuesday or Wednesday next week, come over and say hello."

"Thanks to everyone who got in touch inviting us to take Dilys to their town or village over the next few months."

"She'll be joining us again on April 26 when we celebrate 100 days to go, and on June 15 to celebrate 50 days to go, when we'll be visiting as many places as we can across the region."

All slots have now been filled and details will be posted online - www.eisteddfod.org.uk - and this is where you'll also be able to buy tickets to the Maes and the concerts from March 1 onwards.

For more information on Dilys go to www.van-goch.co.uk.

G Y D A ' R
Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn prysur agosau, bydd criw'r Brifwyl yn teithio o amgylch y Fro ar Chwefror 28-29.

Dilys, y fan gamper sgleiniog goch, fydd yn tywys y tim, wrth iddyn nhw deithio o le i le yn dosbarthu gwybodaeth a siarad gyda thrigolion lleol a busnesau, am beth i'w ddisgwyl yn ystod yr Eisteddfod, a gynhelir ar dir hen faes awyr Llandow ym mis Awst.

Meddai'r Prif Weithredwr, Elfed Roberts, "Dyma'r tro cyntaf i'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ddod i'r Fro am dros ddegain

mlynedd, felly tra bod gan nifer o bobl atgofion am ein hymwelriad diwethaf, mae 'na ddwy genhedlaeth o bobl leol sy'n mynd i fod yn darganfol yr Eisteddfod am y tro cyntaf eleni.

"Mae'n bwysig ein bod ni'n sicrhau ein bod yn hyrwyddo'r wyl yn lleol dros y misoedd nesaf, felly dyma gyrraedd gyda Dilys, sy'n ein galluogi ni i ymweld â nifer o gymunedau ar hyd a lled y dalgylch. Mae'n gyfrifol pwyysig i ni gan y byddwn yn lansio'r rhaglen gyngherddau ar Chwefror 28 a bydd tocynnau ar gael o Mawrth 1 ymlaen. Bydd ein llyfryn hyrwyddo diweddaraef hefyd yn cael ei ddosbarthu'n eang ar draws Cymru o ddiwedd y mis."

"Fore Mawrth Chwefror 28, dewch i'n gweld ym Marchnad y Barri, ac yna yn y prynhawn byddwn yn nhref Penarth. Y diwrnod canlynol, byddwn yn y Bonfaen yn y bore ac yna'n teithio i Lanilltud Fawr am y prynhawn, felly cofiwch alw draw i ddweud helo os y byddwch o gwmpas y lle."

"Diolch i bawb sydd wedi cysylltu i'n gwahoddi ni i ddod â Dilys i'ch cymuned lleol, ac erbyn hyn mae'r daith yn llawn."

"Bydd Dilys yn dychwelyd atom ar Ebrill 26 i ddathlu 100 diwrnod i fynd ac yna ar Mehefin 15 i ddathlu 50 diwrnod i fynd, gan deithio o amgylch y Fro."

Byddwn yn cyhoeddi manylion y daith yn llawn ar ein gwefan - www.eisteddfod.org.uk - a dyma lle i fynd i brynu tocynnau Maes a thocynnau cyngherddau o Mawrth 1 ymlaen.

Am ragor o wybodaeth am Dilys ewch i www.van-goch.co.uk.

SIONED EDWARDS

COFFEE MORNING

LLANTWIT MAJOR Twinning Association will be holding its annual St David's Day coffee morning in the Llantonian Hall on Saturday, March 3. Entrance is £3, including tea/coffee and cake, starting at 10am.

VALEWAYS WINTER WALKS

A WALK through Welsh history. Meet at 1.30pm in the car park, Plymouth Arms, St Fagans, on Tuesday, February 28.

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NOW £699

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2 drawer kitchen console table in distress painted finish & rustic oak top
Was £399

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Galaxy

2 door, 2 drawer sideboard in satin laquer light oak
Was £445

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Healthbeds 'Memory Flex'

Double Vasco King Size mattress with cool max cover
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Cotswold

Glazed Display Cabinet with drawer in distress finish golden oak
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Bridgend County Borough Council

Building Excellence Awards 2012



The Bridgend County Borough Council Building Control Team

Back row left to right:
Paul Jeremy (Building Control Surveyor), Roger Howells (Building Control Surveyor), Glyn Mitchell (Drainage Officer), Roger Jones (Building Control Surveyor), Cliff Bull (Building Control Surveyor).

Front row left to right:
Paul Joseph (Senior Building Control Surveyor), Beth Jones (Building Control Assistant), Brian Wallace (Principal Building Control Manager), Meryl Morgan (Building Control Assistant), Dave Todd-Jones (Senior Building Control Surveyor).

The categories are:

Domestic – Extension, Alteration, Loft Conversion.

Residential – Single Dwellings.

Residential – two to 10 Dwellings.

Best Community/Healthcare Building
(Public Building, Community Centres, Hospitals).

Best Education Building

Best Commercial – Small (up to £5m)

Best Commercial – Large (more than £5m)

Best Sustainable Project – Commercial.

Best Social Affordable Housing Project

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol



THE seventh annual Building Excellence Awards are set to be held in Bridgend on Wednesday 29 February 2012.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's Building Control team, the awards are designed to showcase high-quality buildings and recognise design teams who have overcome technical issues by developing innovative and creative solutions.

Nominations for the awards are provided by the council's Building Control surveyors who are responsible for supervising the projects as they progress on site through to the completion of the building work.

With the ceremony set to take place at the Civic Offices in Angel Street, there are nine categories of award. The winners are judged on their construction and technical building qualities.

The awards will be presented by Deputy Mayor Councillor Marlene Thomas, Councillor Phillip White, Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Mike Gregory and Satwant Pryce, Head of Regeneration and Development.

The winners will also go forward to the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) awards for South Wales, which will be hosted by television and radio personality Jason Mohammed at the Vale of Glamorgan Golf and Spa Resort on 20 April 2012.

The winning entries from South Wales will then have an opportunity to be recognised on a national scale at the LABC National Building Awards in London this November, where they will compete against entries from the rest of the UK.

Councillor Phil White, Cabinet Member for Communities, said: "The LABC awards have become well established over the last few years and have played an important role in promoting the many Building Control services offered by the council.

"We have also created a new planning award based on the LABC categories which is intended to encourage further high-quality design work and help make more companies aware of how the council's Building Control and Planning services can offer expert help and support."

For more information, visit the planning pages at www.bridgend.gov.uk



SPONSORS:



CATEGORY 1: Domestic
 EXTENSION, ALTERATION, LOFT CONVERSION



PROPOSED:
EXTENSION

ADDRESS:
12 REST BAY CLOSE,
REST BAY,
PORTHCAWL

BUILDER:
SELF BUILD –
MR HOCKRIDGE

ARCHITECT:
STUART BENTLEY BA
(Hons) Arch., B Arch.
(Wales)

The design of the scheme considered the provision of a cohesive and modern solution which respects and enhances the existing building's physical constraints, while maintaining the character of surrounding properties, and combined the use of both traditional and modern materials and building methods.

Good communication between the owner, architect and the many trades involved in construction, along with close consultation with Building Control, resulted in a very pleasing transformation of the property, built to a very high standard.



Stuart Bentley
 BA (Hons) Arch, BArch (Wales)
 SBDC

Over 34 years experience, of working in numerous well known and established architectural design practices/university estates departments.

Known as a sensitive and pragmatic designer, combined with a strong technical background, to create exciting buildings and spaces from initial conception to completion.

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M: 07747 351 899
E: stuartbentley_designs@hotmail.co.uk

CATEGORY 2: Residential
 SINGLE DWELLING

PROPOSED: NEW DWELLING

ADDRESS: LAND AT NOTTAGE MEAD, PORTHCAWL

BUILDER: CB CONSTRUCTION

ARCHITECT: ALLAN D SHAW



From the design of the dwelling through to construction and completion, the owner's focus was on energy conservation and sustainability, with the intention where possible, to use recycled or reclaimed materials from local renewable sources. In addition, the building design allowed for natural ventilation, incorporated high levels of insulation and utilised waste stor-



age and water harvesting systems, and a ground source heat pump. Good communication between the contractor, architect and Building Control throughout the construction process resulted in the delivery of a functional family home, completed to a very high standard.

CATEGORY 3: Residential
 TWO TO TEN DWELLINGS



PROPOSED: 10 NO. NEW DWELLINGS

ADDRESS: AREA 5 AND 8, BROADLANDS, BRIDGEND

BUILDER: LLANMOOR DEVELOPMENTS CO. LIMITED

ARCHITECT: LLANMOOR DEVELOPMENTS CO. LIMITED

During a four-year period of the above development, the first phase has already been completed within the site.

Phase 2 is near completion and during the period there has been a good relationship which has been built up between the developers and the Building Control surveyor, with a mutual understanding between both parties, overcoming construction issues which have arisen on site, culminating in a high standard of workmanship and organisation in producing a quality product.



CATEGORY 4: Community/Healthcare

PUBLIC BUILDING, COMMUNITY CENTRES, HOSPITALS

PROPOSED: NEW SURGERY
ADDRESS: MIN-Y-NANT, HENDRE ROAD, PENCOED
CONTRACTOR: MIDAS CONSTRUCTION
ARCHITECT: STRIDE TREGLOWN
CLIENT: ABERTAWE BRO MORGANNWG



The site was identified for a new Medical Centre close to the District Centre in Pencoed, and will replace the existing doctors' surgery that was operating out of a 'temporary accommodation' building.

Throughout the development of the scheme, the design team of Stride Treglown and the main contractor, Midas Construction, engaged with Abertawe Bro-Morgannwg NHS Trust, the end user, and the Local Building surveyor to ensure that the building is capable of catering for all the unexpected demands on a development of this type.

Dedicated accessible parking bays are situated close to the entrance and reception area, ensuring ease of access for disabled patients.

It is important to note that this scheme achieved a BREEAM rating of Very Good, with all credits for the Excellent rating under energy consumption.

In conclusion, the new surgery will maximise the service provision for the local community in a modern, sustainably designed building that is easily accessible to the general public and a credit to Midas Construction, who maintained a close working relationship with the Building Control surveyor throughout the project.



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CATEGORY 5: Best Education Building

PROPOSED: NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL
ADDRESS: ARCHBISHOP MCGRATH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, BRACKLA, BRIDGEND
CONTRACTOR: LEADBITTER GROUP
ARCHITECT: HLM ARCHITECTS
CLIENT: ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF/BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL



The design team of HLM Architects and Leadbitter Construction were tasked with the challenge of designing and constructing a state of the art school for the 21st Century, on behalf of the Archdiocese of Cardiff, the Welsh Assembly Government and Bridgend County Borough Council.

The site itself presented a number of challenges, not least the fact that the building is situated on a significantly steep gradient. However, the school has been cleverly designed and constructed to follow the profile of the land.

The materials used create a contemporary feel that responds to the aesthetic traditions and culture of the region, and are durable and low maintenance, ensuring the operational costs are minimised.

The overall team work approach between all parties was a major benefit to the success of the scheme, the result being the exceptional, inspiring and exciting educational establishment that is Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School.

Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School
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CATEGORY 6: Best Commercial

SMALL (UP TO £5 MILLION)



PROPOSED:
 SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION UNIT
ADDRESS: COITY ROAD, BRIDGEND
CONTRACTOR: M J COSGROVE
ARCHITECT: PENTAN PARTNERSHIP
CLIENT:
 UNITED WELSH HOUSING ASSOCIATION



The building was constructed to provide 6 No. self-contained flats that will provide temporary accommodation for homeless people. The proposal also includes communal facilities such as a common room and a utility room.

The development combines stonework with coloured render masonry cills and string course detailing.

Working space was at a premium due to the size and location of the site adjacent to a busy roundabout.

The building was completed to a very high standard with excellent communication between the contractor and the Building Control surveyor.

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CATEGORY 7: Best Commercial LARGE (OVER £5 MILLION)



PROPOSED:
EXTRA CARE UNIT

ADDRESS: LLYS TON,
WAUNBANT ROAD, KENFIG
HILL, BRIDGEND

CONTRACTOR: COWLIN
CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

ARCHITECT: PENTAN
PARTNERSHIP

CLIENT: VALLEYS TO
COAST HOUSING LIMITED

This new development of 39 self-contained flats has been designed and constructed to meet the Welsh Assembly Government's primary aims of extra care, which are to foster independence, enablement and choice.

Successfully handling the setting of an Extra Care Scheme into a neighbourhood of this scale set a significant design challenge.

Built to a contemporary style using materials that are in harmony with the

surrounding areas, it is both functional and environmentally friendly.

The thermal performance of the building exceeds the requirements of L2A Building Regulations 2000, and incorporates renewable technologies in the form of solar PV panels, as well as a highly efficient CHP system, generating electricity while providing heat to the building.

The development achieved a BREEAM Excellent energy rating as required by the Welsh Assembly Government to publicly funded projects.

The construction process set its own challenges, not least the location which is set on a busy road in a residential development, with storage space for materials at a premium and a tower crane 'swinging' its way around the skyline.

Thanks to the determination, professionalism, and perseverance of Cowlin Construction, the Extra Care Unit has now become a 'flagship' building for Valleys to Coast Housing Limited.



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CATEGORY 8: Sustainable Project

COMMERCIAL



PROPOSED:
NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

ADDRESS: ARCHBISHOP MCGRATH
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL,
BRACKLA, BRIDGEND

CONTRACTOR:
LEADBITTER GROUP

ARCHITECT:
HLM ARCHITECTS

CLIENT:
ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF/
BRIDGEND COUNTY
BOROUGH COUNCIL

One of the key issues that were demanded of the design was sustainability.

The approach to a passive design was crucial to the success of the project, not only to reduce the carbon footprint of the school, but also to reduce the running costs, which is a key driver for the Local Authority.

Leadbitter met the environmental objectives by, crushing the rock excavated from the building's footprint and reusing it in the construction, whilst the majority of the materials used in the structural work, hard landscaping, roofing and external framework were also from recycled local sources.

The building also benefits from solar thermal heating and a solar photovoltaic power source. An intelligent building management system and SMART metering also ensures that energy is conserved from power lighting and heating throughout the school.

Additionally, rainwater is captured and used to supply the WCs in the school with a water recycling unit on each floor.

A green sedum roof on the plant room provides for water attenuation. Improved insulation values to all the building elements resulted in 20% increase to the minimum values set out in Approved Document L2a of the Building Regulations 2000.

Leadbitter completed this project incorporating and managing all these

forms of technology in the construction, resulting in Archbishop McGrath High School becoming the first school building in Wales to achieve a BREEAM Excellent rating, for which they should be commended.



CATEGORY 9: Social Affordable Housing Project



PROPOSED: THERMAL UPGRADE OF 61 NO. PROPERTIES

ADDRESS: BLACKMILL, BRIDGEND

CONTRACTOR: FRANK HASLAM MILAN

ARCHITECT: MICHAEL DYSON ASSOCIATES LIMITED

CLIENT: VALLEYS TO COAST HOUSING LIMITED

The scheme incorporated the provision of an external render cladding system, and on some dwellings isolated structural repairs.

The dwellings were also provided with a combination of renewable energies in the form of solar photovoltaic panels and/or air source heat pump installations.

The site is located on an exposed hillside. The works were undertaken whilst the properties were still occupied. Access had to be maintained throughout the project with the least inconvenience to the residents.

This presented a challenge for all parties during the construction procedure and involved close liaison with all parties concerned.

The contract was however, completed with the minimum of disruption and has provided a considerable enhancement to both the community, the occupants and to the environment.



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Cardiff City dream again of Cup glory

**LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS
previews the weekend's
big football match.**

THERE will be a slightly empty feeling to Cardiff city centre on Sunday as nearly 33,000 Bluebirds supporters make their fourth trip in as many years to London's

Wembley Stadium, this time to watch their team take on the night of Kenny Dalglish's Liverpool, in what is probably the most hotly anticipated Cup tie for many years.

While the failed play-off final against Blackpool outmuscles this game in terms of importance, the fact that Liverpool, who hold a massive fan base of their own throughout Wales, are the opponents adds an extra bit of spice to proceedings. A lot of fans are finding themselves with split loyalties.

A 3-0 defeat away at Ipswich Town on Saturday wasn't exactly ideal preparation for such a fixture, but City fans will undoubtedly be buoyant with hope that a performance on par with the 60 minutes in which Peterborough United

were annihilated at Cardiff City Stadium last Tuesday comes to the fore.

Cardiff's recently shaky defence will have to improve if they want to keep the likes of Luis Suarez quiet. They are sweating on the fitness of captain Mark Hudson, who has missed the past few games through injury, and they will be hoping he can return to continue the promising partnership he has enjoyed alongside Ben Turner since the powerful defender joined from Coventry City in August.

Kenny Miller will, injury permitting, spearhead manager Malky Mackay's favoured 4-5-1 formation and he has tasted matches of a similar ilk in his days at both Glasgow Rangers and Celtic.

But it is undoubtedly the fan's favourite and mercurial midfielder man Peter Whittingham who holds most of the aces in Cardiff City's hand, and much of their hope will ride on whether he can find the space between Liverpool's star-studded midfield to use his wide range of passes.

Cowbridge under-14s dominant

COWBRIDGE under-14s travelled to Pencoed RFC with only 15 players due to holiday absences, but still managed to give a strong performance.

Cowbridge got out of the blocks quickly and a strong forward platform allowed the backs to go on the offensive. Within 10 minutes, Pete Anderson used his pace to power around the opposition backs to score the first try, which was followed by a customary run by Nathan Robson to put the score at 10-0.

The Cowbridge team were now very much in the ascendancy and capitalised again with a try by Eugene Richards, who duly converted the score, and another by Tom Lucas to make the half-time score 22-0.

The second half was more evenly matched and Cowbridge had to defend manfully to prevent Pencoed getting on the scoreboard.

The hosts lost the ball in midfield after some excellent defence from Matt Harper, Hywel Williams and

Rian Thomas, and Fraser McGhan kicked ahead where Anderson just beat him to claim the touchdown.

Cowbridge again started to impose themselves, especially as the game had gone to uncontested scrummaging due to injuries in the Pencoed pack, and Tom Evans ran through the defence, only to be tackled high five metres from the line, resulting in a penalty try.

The scoring was rounded off by another try from Richards to make a final score 39-0.

A big thank you to Pencoed RFC for arranging the fixture and for their post-match hospitality.

COWBRIDGE: George Thomas, Tom Evans, Jac Davies, Fraser McGhan, Jack Anderson, Ed Couzens, Luke John, Ben Jones, Tom Lucas, Matt Harper, Hywel Williams, Rian Thomas, Nathan Robson, Eugene Anderson.

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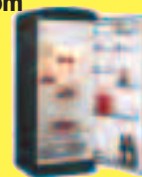
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PENYBONT SURF AND LIVE SAVING CLUB CELEBRATES A VERY SUCCESSFUL 2011



Members of the nippers club.

PENYBONT Surf Life Saving Club has been celebrating a successful 2011, which culminated in a number of competition wins, as well as being involved in environmental projects along the coastline – and arranging for a new slipway to be built at Ogmere Beach

The club also, of course, carried out numerous rescues over the summer.

Based at Ogmere-by-Sea, the club has nearly 300 members from around Bridgend and the Vale, aged between seven and 10 years old. It has five main sections: nippers, juniors, seniors, masters and the inshore rescue boat team.

Nippers are between seven and 12 years old and they learn the basic skills and techniques. At 12 years old they join the junior section where they train and learn more complex rescue skills.

The senior and masters sections are adult members who patrol the beach as volunteers through the summer. Finally, the inshore rescue boat team provide safety cover for beach users who can get into trouble from the ever-present strong Ogmere sea currents.

All age groups were successful in inter-club and national competitions, and nippers receiving life saving awards and competing for their club last year included: Chloe Allen, Kiah Armstrong, Gwen Bennett, Grace Boobyer, Abigail Carson, Tanya Chalissery, Amy Collins, Ellie Davies, Holly Davies, Meghann Davies, Emily Dawkins, Caitlin Delaney, Isobel Dodd, Katie Evans, Kadi Evans, Lauren Evans, Holly Evans, Georgia Francis, Catherine Harrison, Kate Harry, Jane Harry, Rose Harry, Emily Hart, Annabel Hegarty, Katie Hill, Poppy Jenkins, Ellie Jenkins, Katie John, Seren John, Molly Johns, Emily Johns, Bethan Jones, Aaliyah Knill, Iola-Belle Lake, Katie Lewis, Emelia Lewis, Molly McAndrew, Stephanie Mills, Nia Morgan, Aimee Morris, Lowri Morrison, Hollie Mullan, Emily Munro-Daw, Rebecca Ogilvie, Georgia Phillips, Rosie Pope, Sophie Price, Isobel Randall, Lucy Rathrey, Molly Raybould, Molly Ridge, Phoebe Roach, Carys Ross, Carys Sheard, Olivia Stadden, Daya Standing, Carys Taylor, Jade Thomas, Hannah Thomas, Lucy Thomas, Megan Thomas, Amy Thomas, Livvy Westwood, Louisa White, Emily Williams, Anya

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Junior coach Mark Evans said: "The junior section were superb in 2011. They worked hard in patrolling Ogmere beach as trainee lifeguards, and their efforts paid off when we won the gold in the Wales Junior Lifeguards competition."

Many junior members also achieved life saving awards and competition medals. These included: Bronwyn Apsee, Ellie Baldwin, Cerys Bradshaw, Meghan Bryant, Sophia Campian, Ellie Crompton, Katie Dalton, Eleri Davies, Sorcha Davies, Mair Davies, Georgia Dunlop, Megan Elsbury, Leah Harris, Emma Hobby, Maisie Isaac, Zoe James, Emily Kembery, Antalia Landero, Hannah Lewis, Bethany Morris, Ellie Morrison, Aimee Mullan, Alana Mullan, Rebecca Murray, Bethan Parker, Taylor Robinson, Ellie Sheard, Paige Summers, Megan Summers, Nia Thomas, Lydia Thomas, Samantha Tiernan, Mollie Watkins, Chloe Webb, Francesca White, Shauna Williams, Libby Wright, Anna Wynne, Scott Callicott, Ethan Candlish-Nott, Lewis Carson, Lewis Crompton, Jacob David, Ieuan Davies, Liam Davies, Ruairi Davies, Jack Evans, Alex Fox, Tim

Goldsmith, James Hunt, Ellis James, Dan Jansen, William Jehu, James Johnson, James King, Ashley Lewis, Craig Lewis, Tomos Macarthur, Callum Morris, Samuel Morris, Niall Murphy, Thomas Ogilvie, Morgan Parker, Tom Parry, Keland Phinnmore, Tomos Pritchard, Matthew Richards, Nicholas Richards, Lewys Smith, Zak Thackeray, William Thomas, Dale Thomas, Joseph Thomas, Sean Wilcox, and Andrew Wilcox.

Not to be outdone by the younger members, the senior, master and inshore rescue boat teams also achieved competition success, winning the Welsh Championships, and achieving great results at National and European competitions.

Senior competitors include: Huw Rudall, Lloyd Rosewell, Lewis Rosewell, Ashley Lewis, Rhian Thomas, Cerys Rudall, Emma Holloway, Nia Thomas, Cassie James and Bethan Davies.

Masters competitors this year were: Craig Robinson, Richard Watkins, David Watkins, Mike Clemett, Mark Evans, Adrian Morris, Jonny Wright, Mark Harrison, Richard Lewis, Ed Lewis, Huw McArthur, Jon Lewis, Will John, Phil Jones, Adam Buller, Andrea Phinnmore, Suzanne Watkins, Katrin Saunders and Lucy Buller.

The slipway at Ogmere was removed two years ago on health and safety grounds. This has meant difficult beach access for Ogmere residents, tourists and club members.

The slip being removed also meant rescues were dangerous across the rocks onto the foreshore.

The club worked closely with Dunraven Estates and the Vale Council to find a solution for the access problem.

Work on the new slipway is planned to start in March and should be finished by the end of April.

The club has also cleaned up at the beach. Keep Wales Tidy officer, Ian Harvey, explained: "Keep Wales Tidy and Penybont lifeguards started a programme of beach clean projects in 2011. More than 60 members came to lend a hand and collected more than two tonnes of rubbish."

More clean-up projects between KWT and Penybont Lifeguards are planned for next year.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Ian Harvey at Keep Wales Tidy on 02920 726994.

NW



ABOVE: Members who earned selection for the Welsh squad show off their caps.



ABOVE AND LEFT: Members of the nipper and junior teams, and Co-op managers Gary Chappell and Rob Cook, after the award of the £2,000 grant towards the new slipway.

TOM LANDS A DOUBLE

TOM David was in good form at the recent Albrington Hunt Point-To-Point, landing a double with Aubrey De Vere in the first division of the maiden and My Flora in the men's open race.

My Flora, the odds-on favourite, beat Welsh wonder horse Findlay's Find, who was ridden by Nick Williams from Ogmere.

Makethemostofnow, owned by Janet Davies, and trained by Llancafan's Evan Williams, won the novices hurdle at Ffos Las, getting home by three parts of a length from Benheir who, ridden by the legendary A P McCoy, was denied a hat-trick; Makethemostofnow was partnered by Paul Moloney.

Cave Hill, ridden by Lucy Jones, and the rank outsider at 28-1, landed the Dunraven Welsh Foxhunters Chase at Ffos Las Racecourse on Sunday, coming home 10 lengths ahead of the fancied Teddy's Reflection.

Mrs Debbie Hamer saddled Bendant to win the Dunraven Windows Novices Handicap Chase; Bendant was ridden by Paddy Brennan.

James Tudor, assistant trainer to Evan Williams, won the club

members' race on Harbour Court at the South East Hunts meeting at Charing.

There will be a Cheltenham Festival preview evening on Wednesday, March 7, at the Masonic Hall in Barry.

It will be hosted by Willie Thorn, and Aberthin trainer Tim Vaughan, who will be joined by jockeys Richard Johnson, Richard Killoren and Tom Mollone. Tickets can be obtained from Andrew Lowrie on 01446 722463.

EVAN AND TOM RIDE WINNERS

When St Athan farmer Jim Thomas saw his grandson Tom David land the Heygate Gold Cup Open Race recently at the North Hereford Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Whitwick Manor on Current Exchange, his thoughts went back to 1957, as he had won the same race himself on his father's prolific Stoney Bridge.

Jim's other grandson Evan, Tom's brother, was in action at the Vale of Clettwr Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Cilwendig, where he won the Jockey Club PPORA Club Members Maiden Race For Mares on David Brace's five-year-old bay mare Knight Blaze, which won by one-and-a-half lengths from Kimora.

Homebred Knight Blaze is by Bach, who is standing at Mr Brace's Dunraven Stud Farm at Bridgend.

Steve Bevan, who is also based in the Bridgend area, had a training double with Billy Cuckoo, who won the members' race for ex-Welsh rugby international Dafydd Jones, and Cannon Bridge who took the ladies' open race under Hannah Lewis.

Cannon Bridge, who at 14 years old was the oldest horse racing at the meeting has now won 20 point-to-points and three hunter chases and has been a credit to his owner, Llantrisant saddler Keith Pritchard.

The men's open race winner, Silver Story, is also trained in the Bridgend area at Coity by William Vaughan, whose brother Tim trains at Aberthin.

The grey Silver Story, who is owned by Rhonda's Norman Jones, was ridden by Bradley Gibbs, a promising young rider attached to Tim Vaughan's yard.

The Currie & Langibigh Point-To-Point Steeplechases will be held at Howick, near Chepstow Racecourse, on Sunday, February 26, and racing gets under way at 12 noon with the members' race.

BRIAN LEE

Under-12s march on in Blues Cup

Blues Cup: Cowbridge under-12s 33 - Llandaff 5.

COWBRIDGE under-12s went through to the next round of the Blues Cup with an impressive win at home over Llandaff.

Despite having the majority of possession and territory, at the end of the first half the game was level at 5-5.

The home team's points came from centre Max Cunningham, who scored a try as a

result of a well-worked scissors with half-back, Rhys Bradshaw.

Converting possession into points was required and the inspiration came from full back Evan Williams, whose solo effort was undoubtedly the try of the season to date.

Catching a high ball on the run and within his own 22, Williams rounded the oncoming opposition, side-stepped and wrong-footed two defenders

and ran within inches of the touchline to score a tremendous try.

The Cowbridge forwards then picked up the tempo and supplied quality ball to a back-line which was growing with confidence.

Further tries were scored by Evan Williams and also Rhidian Williams, together with Jac Roberts, who scored a typical No8 pick and drive in an outstanding personal performance.

Conversions came from Evan Williams (two), Rhys Bradshaw and Luc Beattie to provide a notable 33-5 final score.

GD

EVAN'S ACROSS THE CARD DOUBLE

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams had plenty to smile about when he had an across-the-card double at Southwell and Lingfield recently.

His *Prima Porta*, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, won the maiden hurdle (division one) at odds of 18-1 at Southwell and on the flat at Lingfield he took the first two places when his *Kayalar*, ridden by S W Kelly, finished three parts of a length in front of stable-mate *Zarzal* in the one-

mile, five furlongs handicap.

Kayalar was sent off a 13-2 chance.

Evan's assistant trainer, James Tudor, of Cowbridge, gave him more to smile about when 24 hours later at far flung Musselburgh, he landed the hunter chase on the well-backed *Silverburn*.

Racing for the first time in 544 days, he came home by 16 lengths ahead of *Spellchecker*, who was finishing in the runner-up's spot for the fourth time in a row.

Paul Rich, former Master of the Pentyrch Hunt, who now trains in Lambourn, won with *Waldser* at Lingfield.

Cowbridge under-9s are comeback kings

DESPITE a heavy pitch at Bridgend Sports on Sunday, February 12, Cowbridge under-9s again did their best to play rugby during the course of two games.

Bridgend Sports 5 Cowbridge 2

Handling errors cost the boys dear. The opposition's style was more direct and therefore less prone to error.

In the first half of this game, Cowbridge matched Bridgend Sports with two tries each, the Cowbridge tries coming from Matthew Gilvear and Robbie Hawkins.

In the second half, however, despite lots of possession, tackling let them down leading to the final score; Matthew Gilvear, James Gilvear and McKinley Parsons made big defensive efforts though.

Bridgend Sports 1

Cowbridge 5

In the second game, again Cowbridge played far more adventurous rugby.

Defensively, Cowbridge were more sound and able to deal with Bridgend Sports' up the middle approach.

Some of the Cowbridge offloading in the contact area was excellent with one particularly of note made by Robbie Hawkins to Jake Williams, leading to Jake scoring one of his two tries.

David Harris capped an all-round excellent

performance with two tries himself.

Special mention goes to Jake Williams who, despite his small stature, seems to develop week by week.

Squad: Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Sam Coates, Gruff Ford, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Oliver Jarman, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Joe Marshman, McKinley Parsons, Jack Reilly, Harry Whittaker, Dewi Williams, Jake Williams and Rhys Williams.

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The GEM

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£100 to £1,000**

Collect (any distance).

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**SUTTONS
Auto Salvage**

Up to £150 paid on
collection, for scrap, MOT
failures, and tax expired
vehicles. Also body shells
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No wheels, no problem.

Tel: 029 2059 7887
07971 648596

**Filco
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Limited**
of 19 Boverton
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Is applying to change
an existing licence as fol-
lows:
To add an operating centre
to keep 6 goods vehi-
cles and 0 trailers at
Unit 71,
Vale Business Park,
Cowbridge,
Vale of Glamorgan
CF71 7PF.

Owners or occupiers of
land (including buildings)
near the operating cen-
tre, who believe their use
or enjoyment of the land
would be affected,
should make written rep-
resentations to the Traffic
Commissioner at Hill
Crest House, 386
Harehills Lane, Leeds,
LS9 6NF stating their
reasons, within 21 days
of this notice.

Representors must at
the same time send a
copy of their representa-
tions to the applicant at
the address given at the
top of this notice. A guide
to making representa-
tions is available from
the Traffic
Commissioner's Office.

Wanted

DH Solutions - Cash For Scrap

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**Barry Masonic Hall
Trust Company**

1. Supply of Catering Services
2. Supply of Cleaning Services

Applications are invited from:

1. Qualified Caterers to supply meals at the Masonic Hall, Barry
2. Persons to provide cleaning services to the Masonic Hall.

Contracts will initially be for twelve months' duration, starting from
1st September 2012.

Applicants for each contract will be expected to view the premises
and its facilities by arrangement only through Mr TG Thompson -
e-mail: trevor.thompson4@ntlworld.com (01446) 408359.

Form(s) of contract are available from the undersigned to whom
completed quotations must be received by 16th April 2012.

Applicants may well be interviewed.

The Trust does not bind itself to accept the lowest priced quotation.

**SG Whitehorn, Company Secretary, 27 Teifi Drive,
Barry CF62 7TL. E-Mail: stephen_whitehorn@sky.com
Telephone 07717 897579.**

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The successful applicant will have good organisational
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work within Glamorgan. Starting salary: £26,609.
Closing date for applications: 9 March 2012.

Further details and application forms are available from
the Director of Administration, Farmers' Union of Wales,
Llys Amaeth, Plas Gogerddan, Aberystwyth, SY23 3BT.
Tel: (01970) 820820. E-mail: head.office@fuw.org.uk

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Anniversaries

**Barri & Shirley
Payne**
Happy 50th Anniversary
24th February 2012

All our love, Michelle, Andrew,
Beverley, Julian and all of your
nine grandchildren XXX

Family Notices

**MURRAY
Lynda**

Peacefully on February 13 at
University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.

Lynda - well known for her time working at Morgan,
Bruce & Co, devoted partner of Tony Davies.

Lynda will be greatly missed by all her loving family.
Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd
Road, Barry, until her service at New Jerusalem Church,
Tynwydd Road on Tuesday 28th February at 1.45pm,
followed by cremation at Vale of Glamorgan Memorial Park,
Port Road East, Barry. Immediate family flowers only -
donations in lieu may be made in the service to the British
Heart Foundation in memory of Lynda. Funeral arrangements
entrusted to Lyndsay J Ellis at Park Funerals 01446 421212.

**RAIMENT
Frank**

Andrew and Leigh Raiment are sad to announce
the death of their father Frank who passed away
suddenly on 9th February 2012 at the age of 89.

Frank was well known and well liked around
Cowbridge having lived in the town for over 40 years.
He will be sorely missed by family and friends.

The Funeral Service will take place on
Friday, 24th February at the United Free Church,
Westgate, Cowbridge at 2pm followed by
interment at the Limes Cemetery.

**O'BRIEN
Cynthia (Cindy)**

On February 21st, peacefully at home, surrounded
by her family at The Acorns, Aberthorn.

The beloved and loving wife of Mike and devoted
mother of Andrew and Daniel. Dearly loved mother-in-
law of Elin, and cherished sister of Ann, Margaret,
Phyllis and Edgar and sister-in-law Maureen.

The family would like to thank the district nurses,
doctors and staff of Cowbridge & Vale Medical
Practice and the many friends and family who enabled
Cindy to spend her last days at home.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to
Cancer Research.

Funeral Service on Tuesday, 28th February at Holy
Cross Church Cowbridge at 1.45pm where friends
please meet, followed by cremation at Coychurch
Crematorium at 3.15pm.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Philip Preece,
Funeral Director, Pontyclun, telephone 01443 223368.

Birthdays

**Happy Birthday
Tim Chapman**
on
28th February
from all your
friends at The GEM

Happy 21st Birthday
to my gorgeous fiancé
Rhian Orchard
25th February 2012
Hope you have a great day!
Love you all the world,
Jules xxx

To our special
daughter
**Happy 21st
Birthday**
on 25 February
Lots of love,
Mum, Dad and all
the family xxx

Double celebration...
John Davies
is **60** years young
and **RETIRING** on
Friday 24th February
*Happy Retirement and Birthday
wishes from your loving wife
Pauline and all the family XXX*

**RUTH & MATTHEW
(Lloyd) (Burns)**
Happy 30th Birthday
24TH FEBRUARY
To our amazing
Mummy &
Uncle Mashy Poo!
Lots of Love
Evan & Molly
xxx

RUTH LLOYD
**Happy 30th
Birthday**
to a
very special wife.
Love you lots,
Love Martin
xxx
24th February 2012

Welcome Home

Paul
WELCOME HOME
to Brocastle
from all the residents
Get well soon
we are all here for you

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Adverts must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.

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1 large dolls house - £20
2 Ikea armchairs, rust covers, dark wood frame - £50 both

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2 Seater Leather Sofa (new) & (new) Electric Fire £150

Single Bed (new) & Mattress (new) £150

Heat Foot Massager (new & still in box) £50
01656 890489

Dining Table

Solid Dark Oak, extends to 7', as new Cost £600
Now £300 ono
01446 750283

Bookcase

G Plan Light oak, glass fronted, 2 shelves. £45
01446 773135

Wardrobe

Large medium oak wardrobe with drawers £200 as new
01446 751344

Newworld Gas Cooker

55cm width, high level grill, white. 24 months old with instructions. Can be seen working. £170
01446 794510

Rayburn Heater

499kb (Oil) - £600 ono
Hotpoint condenser tumble dryer £50 ono
Beco A class larger fridge £70 ono
01446 775171

G Plan 3 piece suite

in rattan cream. As new, cost £1,900 Will sell £495 ono
07792 046723

Pair of black shoes

Low heel, plain front, make 'Gabor', unused. Size 4 1/2. Was £75 Now £45
01446 773341

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Telephone Gareth **01446 774484**

Three Piece Suite in lavender. Excellent condition. £150
Terracotta two seater settee £50
Valor gas fire Glass fronted £70
Wood surround £10
Marsell Beige Hearth £20
01446 420598

Tunturi E80 electronic upright Exercise Bike (never been used) £150
Horizon Fitness RSC 200 semi-recumbent electronic Exercise Bike £100
Both bikes in excellent condition. Tel: Rhooce **01446 719918**

Matching Tables (26x26x20) £35 (28x47x16) £45
Maple with black granite inserts.
Webber BBQ with attachments £45
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Wool Rugs

Variety sizes. Good condition. Subject to sensible offer prices.
07970 400553

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2007 Urban Fox (1.2) Black, 3 months MoT + Road Tax, 52,300 miles £3,750
07885 852859

03 Toyota Avensis 2L automatic, silver grey metallic, taxed, MoT, excellent condition £2,200
01656 863383

2006/55 plate Ford 1.3 KA 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, 37,000 miles, black, good condition. £1,650
01446 411639

Local woman's heartbreak after the family cat dies of poisoning

A Llantwit Major family have been left heartbroken after their 10 month old cat died from poisoning.

by TIM CHAPMAN

Sandra Higgins and her family are keen animal lovers and have been left distressed by what happened to the younger of their two cats.

Sandra, who lives in St David's Avenue, told The GEM: "Squeaky was only 10 months old. We had found him abandoned in a box and adopted him."

"Last Tuesday morning (February 14) he went out as usual. When I called him back in at the

end of the day, there was no sign of him. I was calling and calling.

"He appeared on the doorstep on Wednesday morning. He was lying there and couldn't walk."

"At first, I wondered whether he'd been hit by a car but there were no marks on him. He was lifeless and his eyes were yellow."

Sandra took him to the PDSA in Cardiff where Squeaky was put on drip.

"On Thursday they phoned to say his kidneys were failing and they were going to have

to put him to sleep.

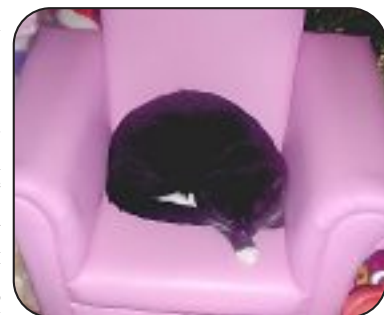
"I held him in my arms until he went. It was awful - all I did was cry. My grand-daughters Nina, who is 18 months, and Nikita, who is four, are devastated."

Blood tests were taken and indicate he may have ingested anti-freeze.

Sandra "The vet said he was definitely poisoned. Deep down, I think it was deliberate."

"If people want to deter cats, why can't they use harmless sprays?"

The family are now anxious about letting their other cat Billy out in case he suffers the same fate.



Squeaky having a peaceful nap. First he was abandoned; then he was adopted by the Higgins family, but at 10 months old he died after being poisoned.

Scout leader's pain for charity

TO raise money to replace equipment used by the Vale Explorer Scouts on their Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, leader Ian Jones came up with the bright idea of having his legs waxed.

At Christmas, after talking to his milkman Peter Coombes, Ian discovered that Peter's daughter, Hannah, was in hospital during the holiday with a severe chest infection and decided that she too was a deserving cause.

Ian suggested to Peter that if he sponsored having his legs waxed, he would give half of whatever he raised to Hannah, either to buy her any equipment she needed, or just to help with a well-deserved holiday that would hopefully raise her spirits.

Ian is more used to the Three Peaks Challenge or the Sun Run at Malvern, but spread the word among

the local Scout groups, and there was no way back.

Local beauty salon owner Victoria Thomas, of Sunkissed in Llantwit Major, kindly agreed to do the waxing free of charge.

So on Saturday, February 11, therapists Lori-Ann and Jo worked hard to calm a very nervous Scout leader down and then the deed was done.

The waxing was expertly carried out by Lori-Ann in about 25 minutes with Ian's wife, daughter and grandchildren giving their support.

Due to the expertise of Lori-Ann, Ian felt it was not as painful as he had expected, although he did admit that the toes and above the knee were a little sensitive!

So far more than £350 has been raised.

Anyone who would like to donate any money to these excellent causes, or find out more about Explorer Scouts in the Vale, should contact Ian Jones on 01446 794764.



The finished article and relief for Ian.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (ST ANDREWS ROAD (PART), DINAS POWYS) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION AND AMENDMENT) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than twenty one days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedule below:

Full details of the proposals, to include the proposed Order and plan No T/12/3/IAJ, may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objection you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Head of Visible Services (Ref. IF676) in writing by 16 March 2012 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

SCHEDULE

Proposed 30 miles per hour speed restriction

Make new Order

St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys

No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to travel at a speed greater than 30 mph on St Andrews Road from a point approximately 775 metres west of Highwalls Road to a point approximately 250 metres east of its junction with Argae Lane, a distance of approximately 1030 metres.

Existing 20mph Speed Restriction

Amend Existing Order

Amend:- "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (St. Andrews Road (Part), Britway Road (Part) and Merevale, Dinas Powys) (20mph Zone) Order 2007".

In Schedule 1

Paragraph (2)

To read:-

Britway Road (Part) and St. Andrews Road (Part), Dinas Powys - from a point approximately 40 metres west of its junction with Highwalls Road, westwards for a distance of approximately 775 metres.

Dated this 23 day of February 2012

M. Punter
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2012

GORCHYMYN (CYFYNGU CYFLYMDRA I 30 M.Y.A. A NEWID CYFYNGU CYFLYMDRA) (RHAN O ST. ANDREW'S ROAD, DINAS POWYS)

Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adran 84 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwgiedig) a phob o'r galluogi arall, yn gwneud Gorchymyn ymhen o leiaf un diwrnod ar hugain ar ôl dyddiad yr hysbysiad hwn i'r diben cyffredinol a ddisgrifir yn yr Atodlen isod:

Cewch weld y cynigion llawn, gan gynnwys y Gorchymyn a chynllun T/12/3/IAJ, yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa. Dylech gyfeirio unrhyw wrthwynebiad sydd gennych i'r cynnig hwn at Benneth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy (Cyf. IF676) ar furl llythyr erbyn 16 Mawrth 2012, gan egluro'ch rhesymau dros ei wrthwynebu.

Os oes gennych wrthwynebiad i'r Gorchymyn a gynigiwyd, cofiwch fod gan y cyhoedd hawl o dan Deddf Llywodraeth Leol (Hawl i Wybodaeth) 1985 i weld unrhyw sylwadau sy'n cael eu gwneud, a bod dyletswydd gyfeirio i'r ar y cyngor i ddarparu ar gyfer hynny.

ATODLEN

Cynnig ar gyfer cyfyngu cyflymdra i 30 m.y.a.

Gwneler Gorchymyn newydd

St Andrew's Road, Dinas Powys

Ni fydd neb yn gyrru nac yn achosi na chaniatáu i neb arall yrru unrhyw gerbyd yn gyflymach na 30 m.y.a. ar hyd St Andrew's Road rhwng man sydd rwy 775 metr i'r gorllewin o Highwalls Road a man arall rhyw 250 metr i'r dwyrain o'r gyffordd ag Argae Lane, sef pellter o rwy 1030 metr i gyd.

Gorchymyn cyfredol sy'n cyfyngu cyflymdra i 20 m.y.a.

Diwygier y Gorchymyn cyfredol

Diwygier:- Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2007 ar gyfer cyfyngu cyflymdra i 20 m.y.a. yn rhan o St. Andrew's Road, rhan o Britway Road a Merevale, Dinas Powys.

Newidier Atodlen 1

Paragraff (2)

fel y canlyn:-

Rhan o Britway Road a rhan o St. Andrew's Road, Dinas Powys - o fan sydd rwy 40 metr o'r gyffordd â Highwalls Road, am rwy 775 metr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Dyddiedig 23 Chwefror 2012

M. Punter
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwentô. CF5 6AA.



Housesitter

Local Housesitter

References available.
Telephone: **07866 544951**

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GEM sport

SATURDAY'S TRIPLE CROWN DECIDER GEM reporters look at the crucial areas

WHAT do Wales (and England) need to do to win on Saturday?

The GEM's reporters offer their five top tips.

The week off in the Six Nations schedule gave GEM scribe Don John a chance to recharge his batteries so, to ensure his sharpness for the final three games, he has been sent for a week's intensive training in Poland.

At this very moment, he is locked in a cryotherapy chamber, ensuring that his critical faculties are in peak condition for the crucial run in.

This gives GEM reporters Philip Irwin (born in Cardiff, schooled at Bridgend Boys Grammar) and Tim Chapman (born in London, schooled at St Mary de Crypt Grammar School, Gloucester) a chance to speculate on 'the big one' - Wales v England.

We asked Philip for five things that Wales must do to

ensure a victory at Twickenham, while Tim has put his mind to finding five things that England need to do to break Welsh hearts.

Their opinions were written on Monday, and therefore run the risk of being made irrelevant by any changes in personnel made by Messrs Gatland and Lancaster.

Philip Irwin.

Wales need to:

1/ Deraile Charlie Hodgson's comeback.

It pains me to say this, because I always had a soft spot for Charlie. There was a time when England had a choice of a pragmatic game plan under Jonny Wilkinson, and a more varied option with Charlie at the helm.

In the end, Jonny's ability to crash tackle rampant second row forwards tipped the balance, and Charlie was sent back to Sale to rebuild his career.

There is, I think, something pretty inspiring about his ability to do so, first at Sale and now with Saracens, but it is time to

put sentiment aside and launch several of Wales' big backs in his direction.

The word is that Charlie is now a better tackler. It's time for this to be tested.

2/ Be patient. One flaw in the modern game is that a side can opt for 'safety first' rugby and can go through the phases without much risk of losing possession.

As long as no one throws a risky pass, you can keep possession for maybe 20 phases without ever gaining any actual yardage.

This was particularly true in the first half of the Scottish game. Apart from a spell when George North was injured, I doubt if Scotland made any yardage at all when they had the ball.

To be fair, in the two matches so far, Wales have not been rattled and have bided their time. It's just that we sometime get over-anxious at HQ!

3/ Keep running straight. What has been really impressive this year has been the way

the two centres, Jamie Roberts and Jonathan Davies, have straightened the line whenever things were getting cramped. The days when the play drifted out towards the touchline seem to be behind us.

4/ Don't believe the hype.

We are so used to England taking the field with a big physical pack that it is easy to believe that this year's 'red rose eight' are a soft touch that would be overpowered by Cowbridge under-14s.

Hopefully, Shaun Edwards and Sam Warburton will hammer away during the week to stop any complacency building up.

5/ Back to Charlie Hodgson again. Perhaps our backs could spend some time sending their clearing kicks to touch with a slightly higher trajectory?

PS I'm going to look foolish if Stuart Lancaster picks Toby Flood!

Tim Chapman

England need to:

1/ Stop George.

George North is fast becoming the pre-eminent rugby star in

the northern hemisphere - a huge physical specimen, he combines speed and power with deftness of touch. It can take up to three men to bring him down.

England's problem is that by concentrating on George, the gaps may open up for Alex Cuthbert, Jamie Roberts, Jonathan Davies, or my favourite Welsh player, will o' the wisp Leigh Halfpenny.

2/ Get their back three in the match.

England have a talented back three - Foden, Ashton and Strettle. England's three-quarters have been stop-start in their first two matches with the excuse that an inexperienced side has been playing away and is anxious to chalk up vital wins.

At Twickenham there will be no excuse for not launching them. If they get decent ball, they can cause Wales problems.

3/ Get quick ball.

One of biggest irritations for any rugby supporter is when their scrum half fails to get the ball out swiftly to his outside half.

Lee Dickson came on as a substitute for Ben Youngs against Italy, and the tempo of English attacks improved significantly.

Dickson seems likely to start.

4/ Get an edge in the scrum. A scrum that's going forward gets a psychological advantage. To illustrate the importance of even a first scrum, cast your mind back to England playing for the Grand Slam last year against Ireland at Lansdowne Road.

The Irish shunted England back from that first 'hit' and set their stall out: 'This is going to be a long, hard afternoon for you.' They went on to a comprehensive victory.

5/ Hold their nerve. So many matches hang on a last minute drop goal and this is the sort of match that could deliver that sort of climax.

Even if Toby Flood doesn't start, I think he will come on so it could end up in a test of his nerve - on the other hand it could be a 'do or die' effort from Wales' Rhys Priestland!

REVENGE FOR DINAS AFTER HEAVY DEFEAT

Cowbridge tennis players gain valuable experience

FOR their visit to Dinas Powys, Cowbridge Second team put out a new set of pairings: the ever present John Edwards was partnered by Sam Street, while Henry Mehta was paired with Harry Harpin.

Henry and Harry

won the toss and elected to serve - their first mistake - as Henry failed to take a point, but that was quickly rectified as they took the next two games thanks to some great stroke play and serving from Harry.

The fourth game went with serve and then Dinas Powys again broke Henry's

serve to take the lead 3-2.

Four points later it was back to 3-3 and then at 30-love in the seventh game Henry was feeling confident enough to offer a let when players from the adjacent court interfered with play.

It was their second mistake and the break in concentration meant they lost the service game, and the next two, to lose the first set 6-3.

The second set followed exactly the same pattern and the pair went down 6-3 again. Meanwhile, on the adjacent court the top spin and athleticism of Sam combined with the flat power of John would have played havoc with most opponents.

Sam was everywhere, following John's barked instructions to the letter.

Unfortunately, the artificial surface didn't suit their combined powers and they went down 6-0, 6-2.

Two matches down meant the team couldn't afford to lose another.

It didn't start well for the H's as they lost the first two games without taking a point, and then something clicked - Henry served and actually held to take a game.

They then broke serve to go up 3-2 with Harry to serve. If he could hold, the boys would have a commanding 4-2 lead. With points going both ways, and neither pair dominating the game, deuce showed there was nothing between the teams.

Some great serving from Harry and a good volley from Henry gave the pair the advantage on three occasions, but each time they couldn't finish the game and when Dinas Powys picked up an advantage, they managed to finish the game off.

The second set started with the Cowbridge pair holding serve and

games went with serve till it reached 3-3.

Dinas managed the first break, taking a 4-3 lead and then held serve for 5-3. Henry served to stay in the match at 5-4 but Dinas won the final game easily, winning the set 6-4.

Meanwhile, grunts of satisfaction were emanating from John on the adjacent court as the Cowbridge pair were clearly taking several more games.

John's power and Sam's topspin ensured Dinas had trouble getting into a rhythm.

However, the first service break went to Dinas and they took the set 6-4. The second set started well for Cowbridge, picking up the first two games before they let Dinas back in with a service break.

At that point, there was no stopping the forward march as the set went down 6-3.

Having won the home tie, losing the match 4-0 was not the best result the team could have hoped for but everyone enjoyed the game and picked up experience on the artificial surface for the summer league.

MH

TIM VAUGHAN TO STAY IN THE VALE

ABERTHIN trainer Tim Vaughan has

quashed rumours that he is leaving his Pant Wilkin yard to train at Lambourn.

The rumours started after he visited Charlie Mann's training centre at Whitcombe Stables, which stands at the foot of the Mandown Gallops, and which are owned by Jockey Club Estates.

Mann, who designed and constructed the yard 14 years ago, is said to have sold his £2.5 million yard to another trainer but a confidentiality clause has prevented him naming

ON AND OFF THE TURF
with Brian Lee

the person who has bought it.

Vaughan, who has been dubbed 'The Bookie Basher' and 'Miracle Worker', owing to his success in such a relatively short time, admitted to visiting Charlie Mann's yard but told me: "That was for another reason."

He added that it is 100 per cent certain that he will be staying in Wales and said: "You can quash the rumours."

Vaughan, who saddled Beshabar to win last year's Scottish Grand National, and who set some sort of a record when training

11 winners in five days, has always believed in the motto 'Why do something tomorrow when it can be done today.'

His interest in horse racing began at the age of 12 when his brother took him point-to-pointing.

He later rode out for Robert Williams of the Ogmere pony trekking centre, and like Robert's sons Christian and Nick, he became a member of the Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club.

Also, like the Williams brothers, he became a Welsh champion point-to-point rider.

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